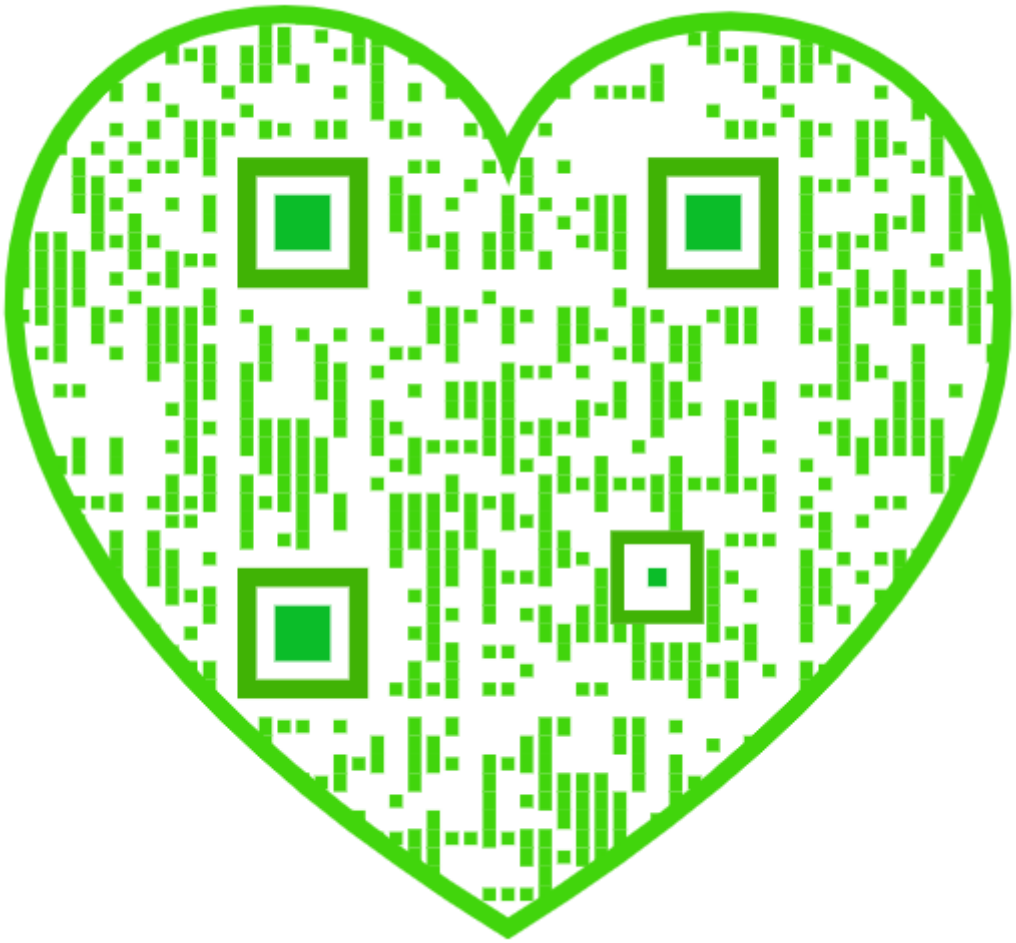
THE LANGSHAN FOWL,

ITS HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS.

BY

A. C. CROAD.



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SKETCH
of
SILVER ISLAND

Remarks

Laughan Flats

NORTH BRANCH

HABLE D'OUTCHAS

TSUNG-MING I.

Mudhead Hills

Tides at Chinq Kiang Pu

CHINA

YANG-TSE KIANG

SHANGHAI TO NANKING

Originally engraved from Surveys by Capt.ⁿ Collinson Belles. & Dethune, R.N. 1842.

The Soundings and the entire cross Tidal observations are from examinations made by M.G.Mahaddy, Yang-tse Pilot, 1847-50

Figures on the land show the heights in Feet above High Water,

Signals Stations in 1850 nearly destroyed

to read it with a small alteration or change

Shanghai-British Consulate Flagstaff Lat 31°24'45" N. Long 121°29'30" E of Greenwich

Geographical Distributions by about Feet Scale 27.5 to 1 Inch

Shanghai 121°28' 0" 31° 24' 45" Barrels
Entrance to Woosung Ent. . 0 00 11 0
Shanghai Consulate . 1 00 00 0

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS

CHINA

YANG - TSE KIANG

SHANGHAI TO NANKING

Originally engraved from Surveys by Capt.ⁿ Collinson R.N., & Bethune, R.N. 1842.

The Soundings and the extraordinary Tidal observations are from examinations made by M.G.Mobsby, Yang-tse Pilot, 1847-50

Figures on the land show the heights in Feet above High Water.

Figures thus 3 in Italic mark anchorage

Figures thus 3 mark elevations in chains

Shanghai - British Consulate Hospital Flag Staff Lat 31°14′ N Long 121°28′ E of Greenwich

Shanghai EWIAC 9ʰ 30ᵐ 0ˢ Range 6ᵐ

Entrance to Woosung Bar . 0 40 0

Shanghai Crossing . 1 10 0

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS

Remarks

In consequence of the great Freshets that occur during the Summer or Rainy Season, the Yang-tse-Kiang rises to an extraordinary height, amounting to twelve and sometimes in some places several miles inland, thereby entirely changing its aspect and assuming the character of a large lake. The navigation at such times becomes very difficult, while the downward stream obtaining a velocity of 3 or 4 knots sometimes sweeps away the buoys and beacons; the Channels undergo great changes and shoals are converted into Islands in the course of a few days. In August 1842, the River is stated to have been 30 feet above its Low-water level, a good land knowledge enables Vessels of small draught to avoid the strong old stream, by passing over the submerged Middle Flat, between Steamers drawing little water, and of high sterling power, are best adapted to the navigation of this River.

Tides at Ching Kiang Pa

The water begins to rise about the time and to fall and ebbs in proper height about Midsummer from which time until Midwinter there is a general lengthening in the rise and fall. From Midwinter it gradually take until February.

There are two full and two of about 8 Feet, or Neap Tides and of about 30 Feet, or Spring Tides.

The tides are strongest in the months of June and July after which they gradually decrease.

The tides are least in Jan.ʸ and Feb.ʸ Vessels navigating for a short time at the Period Flow of them to be, when stuck the middle of Feb.ʸ after which the tides gradually increase

The strongest tides in Mid-Ocean

Low Water Mean Time at Ports

Surveyed by Lieut.ᵗ R.N. & Mate R.N. January 1847

The Passages between the Islands in the Northern part of them often Narrow into Narrowbacks and Shoals among which we Pilots up in Junks, and navigable only for boats and small craft during the Summer.

Soundings in Fathoms

Scale of Latitude & Distance

Natural Scale 1:63360

Miles or Leagues

Mainland Hills

Longitude East of Greenwich

SKETCH of SILVER ISLAND

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS

NORTH BRANCH

T'SUNG - MING

KIANG-TSÉ OR KIANG-SU

NANKING

Tsaukin Islands

Sea-tu-shan

Langshan Island

Gutzlaff Island

Shanghai Channel

Woosung Bar

Woosung Creek

THE

LANGSHAN FOWL

(*THIRD EDITION*)

ITS HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS

WITH SOME

COMMENTS ON ITS EARLY OPPONENTS.

LONDON:
TED AND PUBLISHED BY BOWERS BROTHERS, 89, BLACKFRIARS ROAD.
1889.

DEDICATION.

"*All accuracy is of the noble family of truth.*"

TO ALL

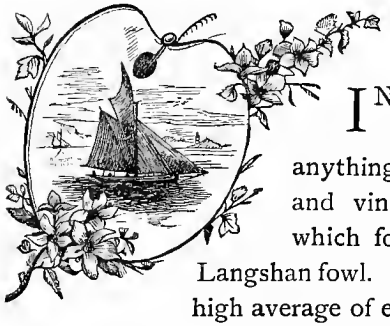
LOVERS OF THE PURE AND TRUE

THIS

LITTLE VOLUME

IS DEDICATED.

INTRODUCTION.



IN the history of Domestic Poultry, there never has been anything approaching to the fierceness and vindictiveness of the controversy which for years raged concerning the Langshan fowl. About the great culinary merits, high average of egg production, and hardihood of these fowls, all parties were agreed, but as the popular breeds of poultry at that time (1872)—the various Cochins—were lacking in those characteristics which made the Langshan so valuable, all the forces of the "Fancy" were arrayed against the new comers, whose formidable rivalry threatened vested interests. The poultry journalists to a man, ranged themselves at the head of the opposition, and Mr. Lewis Wright, the Cochin champion of that time, threw away the scabbard and went for the Langshans and their importers with a vindictiveness and persistency which never slumbered. Happily his efforts did nothing more than "skid the wheel" of success, and the Langshans rapidly rose in public favour wherever they went, and have long since attained a foremost place, and have been universally admitted to be the finest breed of fowls ever imported into this country. But Mr. Lewis Wright, the Sir Oracle of the poultry world, has never forgiven nor forgotten his defeat. Of course he went to the right-about-face when he found that the Langshan had triumphed all along the line, and he would now have us believe that he has never executed a

change of front! In the latest edition of his Poultry Book, he not only endeavours to prove this, but he also asks us to believe that he has all along been the friend and supporter of the Langshan! The spectacle of this gentleman now posing as the saviour of the Langshan fowl—as the "destined instrument" in working out its salvation—is a stupendous, an amazing specimen of unblushing journalistic impudence! Public recollection may be short-lived, but he expects too much if he expects us to forget that he did his level best to condemn these birds, and that he exhausted his by no means limited vocabulary of abuse and innuendo, wherewith to brand these birds as "mongrels," and also to stamp their importers as imposters, who were endeavouring to impose upon a credulous people. Does he expect us to have forgotten how he seized upon every opening—in reports of shows, answers to correspondents, and by footnotes to letters—to assail Miss Croad and her birds? He did his worst and failed; but he never forgave the lady to whose untiring zeal and unwearied exertions he owed his defeat. Even when compelled to yield to the inevitable, he has sweetened his failure by endeavouring to rob Miss Croad of her well earned reward and he has left no stone unturned whereby to puff other people's birds at the expense of her stock. His discovery of a superior and "distinct type" in other yards, is of a piece with the rest of his conduct in this matter, and he is in no way abashed by the fact that the lady referred to has proved conclusively that the persons whom he has puffed in this manner, to her detriment, were largely indebted to her yard for good birds. Many persons will, no doubt, think that Lewis Wright's latest contribution to the Langshan controversy might very well have been passed over in silent contempt, but we are not of that opinion. His tardy confession that these birds are all that we ever claimed them to be, is interlarded with so many personalities, and is permeated by such systematic efforts to prejudice Miss Croad and her strain of birds, that we could not allow these attacks to pass without making a rejoinder.

C. W. GEDNEY.

MR. WRIGHT'S ACCOUNT OF THE LANGSHAN.

IN offering our Third Edition of the HISTORY OF THE LANGSHAN FOWL to the public, we have omitted some portions of the earlier dates that would be of no present interest to our readers. This will give us space to remark on Mr. Wright's various editions of his Illustrated Work on Poultry, in which he makes mention of the Langshan, and to trace the very gradual way in which that gentleman is coming to the light although he is as yet very far from having attained to its full effulgence.

As Mr. Wright's is supposed to be a standard work, we feel it incumbent on us to place the exact truth side by side with his erroneous statements. The first mention we find of the Langshan is in a huge volume purchased by us in 1880, it bears no date, and we cannot therefore say in what year it was published. In this work Mr. Wright gives the Langshan *no place*, he merely mentions it incidentally under the heading "Black Cochin." Of the Black Cochin he writes :—"It was rarely seen till 1872 when fresh importations from China brought valuable "fresh blood," with the very best results, the new arrivals were, as was to be expected, from a locality free from judges fancies, black-legged ;

and partly on this ground, and partly from the tails being longer than those of our present Buff Cochins, while the legs were longer and less feathered, it has been energetically contended that these fowls were of another race and they were called 'Langshans' by their admirers. It was forgotten that most of the points of difference could not be seen when the birds were compared with the earlier Cochins of which portraits still exist; and it was odd to find the uncertain colour of the older Black Cochin cocks insisted on as proofs of mongrel origin, when it had to be admitted that the 'Langshans' sported in colour as much if not more; but it is needless to discuss these questions here. The truth appears to be that the birds were genuine Cochins or Shanghais as formerly called (which also came from North China) and had every characteristic Cochin point, though in some they were less developed than in others; but that having been allowed freely to breed the black leg instead of the highly artificial yellow shank, they had preserved more of the economic qualities which make a fowl valuable. Beyond doubt they laid better, and were of finer flesh than the old yellow-skinned Cochin, a type which Miss Watts had in her day vainly protested against; and they performed two great services. The first was imparting the 'fresh blood' which was so sorely needed; the second was to make the judges tolerate black legs in the show-pen. From the date this last point was established, improvement was rapid and there is now no difficulty in securing stock. In breeding, care must be taken to seek for Cochin points, which some of the recent importations were of course deficient in; but any attempt to restore the yellow leg we hold should be resisted, as certain to bring back the yellow skin on the one hand, and the narrow selection on the other, thereby causing all the old evils. For making this change at least we consider the 'Langshan' is to be cordially thanked. The irregular combs which were introduced by the recent crosses will also need care." To this Mr. Wright adds the following foot-note: "There are still some who contend that the Langshan is a distinct breed, and endeavour to breed it, as they say 'pure.' Our difficulty in

acknowledging this, is not so much that the new blood was absorbed and amalgamated with the old stock without any sign of a real 'cross' whatever, but that no one has attempted to say what points the 'pure' Langshan has. They have repeatedly been asked for, but never given, and this must be our simple excuse for not giving them here, which we should otherwise gladly do according to our principle of fairly presenting every really defined view, however contrary to our own." Mr. Wright's memory is at fault!

When "*Live Stock Journal*" commenced its career in 1874, we sent up for publication a description of the breed very much like the earlier portion of the chapter that appears in this work under the heading, "The Egg, Chick and Adult-fowl." This Mr. Wright refused to publish, saying "he could see no difference between the Langshan and the Cochin" and added "he could not understand why we should object to the breed being called Cochins as they came from China." In November, 1887, we had to pay 17s. 6d. for the privilege of contradicting the false statement that the Langshan hen was *snuff colour*. A gentleman who had had eggs of us in 1876 wrote to "*Bazaar and Mart*" to express his great contentment with the breed, and characterized them as "of noble deportment, handsome and useful birds, good layers, and excellent for the table." There was nothing in this gentleman's letter to call forth adverse criticisms, it was merely the honest expression of the great satisfaction he had derived from his Langshans, and it was of course added testimony to those who had already advocated the breed. On this a writer started up casting doubts on all this gentleman had said, and went so far as to suggest that before taking up Langshans he had only kept an inferior lot of Brahmas and Cochins, and was therefore not in a position to judge the merits of the Langshans.

Many letters were written on both sides. At length our adverse critic proved his ignorance of the subject on which he had elected to write, by saying, "Anyhow it (the Langshan) can never be a first-class marketable fowl, as it has yellow legs." Our friend was not slow to take advantage of this, and the other

excused himself by saying, "the letter in question had been written during an absence from home, that having left his notes behind him, he had fallen into two or three slight errors!" This is the sort of testimony Mr. Wright eagerly accepted. It is however only fair to state that he assigned as his reason for not giving free scope for reply, that there was great pressure on his space at that time, and this we believed to have been absolutely true; but the writer we complained of had already been brought to book for false statements regarding the Langshan, and it did not say much for Mr. Wright's desire for information that he should admit this erroneous charge and crowd out our reply! We all know if false reports are not corrected whilst fresh in men's minds, they are apt to cling to those against whom they have been made.

It is a mistake to suppose the Langshan sports coloured feathers in the same ratio as the old Black Cochin did. Coloured feathers do occasionally appear and therefore we considered it only right to mention them, but they have always been the exception and not the rule. M. Amedée Pièrre Pichot told us in 1883 that he had not met with a *single* instance, and he had bred Langshans ever since 1876, when he introduced the breed into France.

Some years ago a copy of the "*Queen*," a ladies weekly journal of November 15th, 1862 was sent us, containing an article on Poultry. It must be borne in mind that when poultry papers were not so plentiful as they are now, journals not especially devoted to the subject frequently admitted scraps of information for the benefit of their readers. The article in question is of general interest, and we merely quote that portion which treats of the Black Cochin, and this we give verbatim, we neither add to nor take from it.

"Black Cochins again seem to have been a sport from the white or the fruit of a cross, and their admirers did their utmost to bring them into favour. Distinct classes were made for them at the exhibitions for a long time, and after the entries in them became insufficient for their support they were entered in the *various* classes under a distinct heading. But every fresh generation of them proved only more and more that they were not quite black fowls, and never would be so, however carefully

they might be bred. The hens would be beautifully black, but the cocks showed obstinate determination to display red or yellow somewhere. Sometimes an otherwise beautifully black bird would have a sharply marked out coloured saddle—sometimes black everywhere else, he would have streaks of red or yellow in the hackle and sometimes the obnoxious colour would crop in a single feather here and there on the wing. Broods sometimes might be brought up black even to the adult moult, when lo! the red or yellow feathers were sure to betray their unwelcome presence. The judges found it difficult to judge fowls where their task was only to pick out the least faulty. Committees got tired of giving them prizes under the circumstances, and breeders got tired of trying to make them come true; so they have now almost entirely disappeared from exhibitions, and from amateur favour also. Before retiring from public life, however, they were said to serve a turn in crossing with the 'whites,' for many have attributed the black breast of the Partridge Cochin to a cross with their black brethren."

It is well known we got up the first separate classes for Langshans at the Crystal Palace Show in 1876. Mr. Wright, remarking on the Schedule for the Crystal Palace Show of that year, commented on the probable proximity of the Langshan and Black Cochin classes. We followed up these remarks by a letter in "*Live Stock Journal*" on October 20th. To this letter Mr. Wright appended a voluminous foot-note; indeed it was his habit to do this with all our letters; supposing in Langshan matters we were not capable of "running alone," and he always disputed the ground of our arguments—we noted that the opponents of the Langshan, and writers on other varieties were not thus favoured! As the foot-note to this letter is somewhat remarkable, when seen in the light of Mr. Wright's more recent utterances, we give a rather full extract from it.

"Mr. Croad has of course a right to think they are *better* Cochins than were known before; but no single point shows them to be of any other race. It is quite true we used to think the legs ought to be yellow. We may add *we think so still;* but the fact is the difficulty was to get it, and *avoid* the black leg, which all black or very dark fowls tend to, as is shown by the Dorkings of the present day. . . . . We gladly admit, if it pleases Mr. Croad, that Black Cochins were scarce and wretchedly bad when Langshans appeared, there being no fresh blood to be had. They furnished this, and the black leg being prepotent, as well as far more numerous, naturally over-powered the "fanciers'" yellow leg, while the fresh blood contributed to a vast and rapid improvement. But we are speaking of what we are certain will prove an unsuccessful attempt to keep up a distinction which only affects a few points of breedings; and it is also to be remembered that save the black leg the improvement effected in the Cochin by the Langshan has been got by breeding away from what seemed claimed as Langshan points."

This extract proves that the volume in our possession must have been written subsequently to 1876, as Mr. Wright's idea of the colour of the leg of the Black Cochin had undergone a decided change. In the one he emphasizes his preference for the yellow leg, whilst in the other he advises that the Judges should be forced into a toleration of the black leg. Mr. Wright's concluding remarks were certainly not prophetic.

In the Autumn of 1883 we were informed that Mr. Wright was bringing out a "popular" edition of his work on poultry, in which he intended to introduce the Langshan. We were at the time in correspondence with that accomplished scholar and eminent ornithologist M. V. La Perre de Roo; we told him what we had heard, and added, we wished someone well-informed on the matter would give Mr. Wright a true account of the Langshan, and induce him to publish it; for it seemed a pity that what appeared to be otherwise a valuable work should be spoilt by erroneous statements regarding so excellent a breed. M. La Perre de Roo, instead of addressing himself to Mr. Wright, as we had hoped he would, gave us a commission to that gentleman; he desired us to offer him his account and illustration of the Phœnix fowl for his new book.

M. de Roo told us, that he and the French Ambassador had made a journey together, to meet the first Phœnix fowls that had arrived in France, for the Jardin D'Acclimatation. We took the opportunity thus afforded us to invite Mr. Wright to make an inspection of the Langshans in our yard. Mr. Wright declined this invitation, saying he had given his artist instructions to illustrate birds (not essentially prize winners) *but of his (Mr. Wright's) approved type*, at the Birmingham show. It appeared that no birds were available for the purpose at this show, and the artist was reduced to the necessity of following out Mr. Wright's written instruction as to the *make* of a Langshan. The birds thus evolved from Mr. Wright's brain are thus pleasingly described by him on pages 229 and 230 of the "Popular Edition":—

"The moderately shanked, deep breasted, handsomely shaped and tailed style, described and fairly shown in our illustration, is likely to prove in the end most typical, popular, and useful."

These birds however did not represent any type of Langshan, and Langshan breeders were naturally indignant at the caricature that had been forced upon them as a *typical* specimen of the breed.

During this correspondence Mr. Wright addressed us as a lady, and when we observed on this and told him we desired to preserve our incog.; he replied that "our identity had from the *first been a matter of common knowledge*," therefore Mr. Wright's statement in his recent publication "that it was not known till years afterwards that a great part of these effusions were written by a lady," is, to say the least of it, an evidence of great oblivion on his part.

We would remark in passing that the passage quoted by Mr. Wright was not from Miss Croad's pen, but it was amply justified by what was taking place. As far as we were concerned, we never attacked breeder or breed, our time was fully occupied in lifting off approbrious epithets, and false charges from the Langshan.

We are aware that Mr. Gedney, in replying to the abuse, with which the Langshan classes at the Crystal Palace Show in 1876 were bespattered, had pointed out the fact, that it was not in good taste for Cochin breeders to enter our classes, and take the prizes with their mongrels that had been given by Langshan breeders for pure bred Langshans. But surely this was a very mild form of administering a most just rebuke. Black Cochin breeders at that time behaved like a party of wild schoolboys. Their action in this matter has long since been forgiven, and it is much to be regretted that these old grievances should be again raked up. We would point out to our readers, that their revival is no work of ours, but since they have been insidiously brought forward as charges against us, we insist on the exact truth being made apparent.

Mr. Wright's "popular" edition was very much on the old lines, except that he divided the heading of his chapter between the Cochin and the Langshan thus, "Black Cochins—Langshans,"

Throughout it was an effort to prove that the Langshan was the original of the Cochin, the raw material from which Cochin breeders had manipulated their present stock. He disposes of all our arguments in favour of distinction and purity of race as follows :—

"All this was sheer nonsense, and the real truth is clear enough to any who are willing to see it, and are at all competent to judge of the evidence in such a question. The peculiar points of longer (average) legs, and deeper (average) breast, were points of the early Cochins, before being bred to the present standard. More than this, in an early American poultry book of 1852 (Miner's) there is a positive plethora of large black Asiatic fowls—Black Javas, Black Chinas, Hong-Kongs, and Hoanghos. All were more or less black, with coloured hackle ; all had a tendency to scanty feather, or were occasionally bare-legged ; all were spoken highly of for meat and eggs, but all were recognised as belonging to the *one great Chinese or Shanghai race.*

As the area of China proper comprises more than one-twelfth of the entire land surface of the globe, this is truly giving a wide range to the one great Chinese or Shanghai race, especially when it is borne in mind that the climate of China varies from winters of the bitterest cold to regions warmed by the perpetual heat of a tropical sun. Mr. Wright treats China and Shanghai much as he does his chapter "Black Cochins—Langshans ;" one is left in doubt as to whether he believes China to be the capital of Shanghai—certainly no one would divine that the latter was merely a treaty port in one of the smaller provinces of that vast empire. Mr. Wright goes on to say, "that some of these Black Chinas, Hong-Kongs, etc., were undoubtedly representative of the Langshan." This we think highly probable—individual birds may have been brought down from the Langshan district to Shanghai, and thence to England. In 1880 Mr. Gabb told us that a sailor in his neighbourhood had some thirty years previously brought some birds from China, that he felt sure had been crossed with Langshans, *but they were not pure.*

Mr. Wright goes on to say :—

"Not one single point has ever yet been mentioned by anybody which gives one distinction that can be recognised by a naturalist in a question of this kind, or appreciated by a judge in the show pen. The black leg is the *natural* colour for black fowls, and was only avoided by the Cochin breeders with difficulty, through the close

selection required; it is now adopted by Cochin breeders very wisely. The white skin always goes with black plumage and legs. All the other points are relative, and we satisfied ourselves by careful scrutiny that 'Langshans' from the most pretentious sources were shown with all length of tail and leg, and with as little breast and as much fluff as the Cochin, from which the much-abused Poultry judges were nevertheless expected to distinguish them."

We do not care to enquire who were meant by the most pretentious sources, we content ourselves by saying the description given does not answer to any Langshan that ever emanated from our yard, either as bird or egg. We do not say that our birds have always been sufficiently fatted for the requirements of the show pen, (not even in our own estimation), but they have always had the long deep breast inherent to the Langshan, and careful feeding could have obtained a large amount of breast-meat. Mr. Wright adds:—

"Another crucial point in deciding the matter of race distinction is, that when the birds were used as 'crosses' by Cochin breeders, there was *no sign of a cross*, the stock simply *amalgamated* at once. To any competent naturalist this fact alone is conclusive."

This is, perhaps, about the most startling of the many erroneous statements made by Mr. Wright. The Langshan, when used as a cross by Cochin breeders, showed itself quite as clearly as it does in the Orpington and Black Java of the present day. We are aware that Mr. Wright, in a foot-note to his later edition has stated that:—

"Miss Croad has written, maintaining that the Langshan was probably the progenitor of the Black Java fowl, which has a strange resemblance in some points to it, It is manifest this cannot be, since it is well ascertained that races spread rather from India to China, and Black Javas were well known in the United States in 1850, and undoubtedly came from somewhere near the locality named, and not from North China at all."

Mr. Wright shows himself singularly ill-informed on all subjects connected with the Langshan. We do not dispute that races spread from India to China, rather than from China to India, but Mr. Wright seems not to be aware of the fact that the Java is a made bird and that it does not hail from Java or any of the Islands of the Indian Ocean, at any rate in its present form.

We have been in close correspondence on poultry subjects with

America for some years. Poultry journals from all parts of the United States, Canada, and California have been sent us and all agree in giving the following account of the Black Java.

A Doctor D. was some years ago in possession of a breed of fowls from which he would not part with either bird or egg for love or money, but that gentleman's coachman not being so conservative possessed himself of two of the eggs, and gave them to the uncle of some brothers named Lattin ; from these two eggs the Black Java is said to have originated. But besides the papers we have other testimony. It is the habit of American poultry breeders to send out catalogues giving illustrations of the various breeds kept by them, a short history accompanying each illustration. In these we have always found the Black Java described as a made breed, three breeds being said to have been used in its composition, two of these are mentioned by name (if we remember rightly) the Guelder fowl, and the Black Dominique. Number three has always been left a mystery. We heard several Langshan breeders remark on the very pretty little Java exhibited at the Dairy Show last year (1888), and one and all gave it as their opinion that the Langshan had without doubt, contributed the mysterious number three.

This fact does not in the least militate from the Java, for whatever breed, it is associated with the Langshan improves and beautifies

In his work Mr. Wright speaks of the "fog of the dispute." We can truly say this "fog" was neither created by the Langshan nor by its admirers, the pathway of the Langshan has from the first been as clear as that of the sun at noonday. No true lover of the breed has ever sought to cast a shadow over it, but notwithstanding Mr. Wright's "fog," he plumes himself on having discovered a type for the breed. In order to do full justice to the discoverer, we give his own words.

"Singularly enough we ourselves were in all probability the destined instrument for selecting from the miscellaneous crowd, a type which now seem likely to predominate." (Namely the two birds doing duty for Langshans as his frontispiece).

We now come to Mr. Wright's latest work, in which he

favours the Langshan with a separate chapter. We would here state that had Mr. Wright in this work given a true and reliable account of the breed itself we should have been content to leave to him the task of writing its "last chronicles;" but, although Mr. Wright in his new work allows the Langshan a foremost place amongst our breeds of Poultry, and speaks in the highest terms of its merits, he has arrived at false conclusions and put forth most erroneous and misleading statements; and, whilst we find it our duty to make this apparent, we shall take the opportunity to free those who have advocated the cause of the Langshan from the odious and contemptible position in which Mr. Wright has sought to place them. Mr. Wright says:—

"The late Major Croad exhibited his Langshans at the Crystal Palace in 1872, in the class for 'any other new or distinct variety.' In reply to a request for opinions upon them, all the poultry authorities of the day gave it unanimously *as formed upon the fowls in the show pen*, that they were practically identical with Black Cochins, and in deference to that opinion the fowls were entered as Black Cochins at the following Crystal Palace Show, in 1873."

Now this is a most garbled statement of what really took place. Mr. J. W. Nicholls was the only "authority" with whom our uncle held correspondence in this matter, and he told him, from his description, he believed Major Croad to be in possession of a breed of fowls entirely new to this country. After the birds were sent up, we wrote again to beg that the "authorities" would let us know what had been thought of them, whether they had ever appeared in England before, etc. To this letter we have to this day received *no reply*.

The account given by Major Croad of his birds was a minute and faithful one. We repeat it. The old birds were in full moult; one of the cocks was of the tall up-standing type, the other of what has been since called the Dorking type, with full tail, we cannot remember however in what condition it appeared. Two of the hens had fine erect combs, were large birds, and symmetrical in shape, the other two hens had slight tufts, these tufts we believe to have been mere "sports." One thing we

however proved, we did not obtain any tufted chicken from the erect combed hens, but from the tufted we did.

This agrees with the testimony regarding "Sports" given by Darwin and others, for it is well-known that most varieties of poultry were originally derived from "sports." We were always on the look out for any information that would add to our store of knowledge, and an extract from the Editor's Drawer of "*Live Stock Journal*" gave us some light on the subject. A Mr. J. M. Mandeville asks about tufts in Embden Geese, Mr. Wright replies, "They have not usually tufts, but this accidental variation is found in almost all the feathered family." In confirmation of this two or three of the ducks in two importations of "Pekins" gave tufted ducklings. We handed them on to a friend, but as he was obliged to give up his poultry yard just after, we cannot say whether *like* produced *like*.

The young birds we sent to the 1872 show brought away no prize, but they were highly commended, and we also thought that their appearance originated the Black Cochin class at the Crystal Palace in 1873. As before stated our earnest appeal for information as to what had been thought of our birds had remained unnoticed. We only heard incidentally during the course of the following summer that they had been called 'Black Cochins," and we think a Crystal Palace Schedule must have been sent us.

"There is nothing new under the sun," and it seemed probable that Langshans had already appeared in England, and had been called by this name; so nothing doubting, we entered some young birds for competition; unfortunately we were not able to be present at either of these Shows, but the remarks made on our "entries" convinced us that the Langshan would have to be entirely re-made, in order to fit in to *the then* Black Cochin standard; but the Crystal Palace were not the only "authorities" to which our birds were submitted at that time.

They won first at a Local Show, in the presence of a few ardent fanciers, and our man who took them to the Show could have sold several sittings of eggs had he been authorized to do so. The

Secretary in sending his prize money congratulated Major Croad on the "new and beautiful" breed in his possession. They were subsequently sent to another Local Show where they were entirely ignored. Our man met the judge who had awarded them "first" at Pulborough who remarked to him "They have made a grand mistake about your birds, they are the finest in the Show, and are certainly not what they have called them." The man could not remember the name but doubtless it was "Black Cochin."

We also exhibited some young birds at a show held at Lewes that year (1872), and one of the Lady Patronesses was so struck with their beauty, that she asked us to supply her with eggs for sitting. During the following summer we were told, this lady had become disgusted with her Langshans, from having heard they were inferior Black Cochins, and ought to have had yellow legs. Years afterwards we discovered that our informant had been misled in this matter, for the lady wrote to us for a cockerel in 1879, when she told us she still retained the beautiful Langshans she had raised from the eggs purchased of Major Croad, and that having had to reduce her yard she had "done away with all other breeds in their favour."

It was at the instigation of a naval friend, who was himself a poultry fancier, and had passed some time of active service in China, that Major Croad exhibited his first Langshans at the Crystal Palace. He told us he was sure they were a new and distinct breed, and when he heard that it had been suggested that they were Cochins, he said he felt quite certain that this had been an "egregious blunder."

We think we have made it clear why we entered our birds in the Black Cochin class in 1873; it was because we were absolutely ignorant of poultry matters, and poultry shows, and had allowed ourselves to be guided by those whom we supposed to be well-informed on the subject. We are far from saying that the "authorities" were not deceiving themselves, but if they confounded the Langshan with the Black Cochin, it was because "their eyes were holden that they could not see." We would here

remind our readers of the account given of the earlier Black Cochins in the article quoted from the "*Queen*" of 1862. Mr. Wright speaks of Mr. R. Fletcher Houseman, as having given some colour to this Cochin theory in connection with the Langshan that that gentleman had written "that some of the chicken he had received from our eggs, had turned out the very type of Cochins." In a communication we had from Mr. Houseman on this subject, he told us that Mr. Wright had derived an entirely wrong impression from his remarks, that he had no desire to convey the idea that he had discovered the remotest Cochin element in any one of our birds; he merely meant that some of the birds leant more to the Cochin type or shape, as others do to the Dorking, Hamburgh etc. This is merely the evidence of a breed untampered with and not subject to severe selection; the Langshan is a very original breed and the more that is seen of it the more will this be proved. By this we desire to convey that all the circumstances, relating to the Langshan, point to the fact that it is one of the original breeds, hence the supposed types discovered, all of which are without doubt within the range of its own purity. When, in 1886, Mr. Hamilton wrote of the antiquity of the Langshan this fact had been forced upon him by what he had observed in the breed.

Mr. Wright says "Miss Croad in the Langshan controversy professed to dispose of the black leg and white skin theory, by referring to the Spanish fowl, whereas it is notorious that this fowl *has a white skin.*" In the remark we made we were not referring the *colour* of the skin at all, what we said was "the black plumage of the Spanish does not convert it into a good table fowl." We freely acknowledge we here spoke of the table properties of the Spanish fowl from mere hearsay; if it is a good table fowl, we are open to correction. Mr. Wright continues:—

"Finally it was urged with considerable bitterness that the Langshan gloss or "sheen" was *sui generis*, and when Mr. Ludlow made the remark that it was surpassed by the Black Hamburghs and Black Malays, Miss Croad replied, 'that those who know anything of the breeds here mentioned will at once see how utterly false are Mr. Ludlow's statements.' All experienced breeders know very well that in any

black fowl the amount of gloss really depends chiefly upon the time of year—the condition and tightness of plumage."

Surely "the condition," "time of year," tightness of plumage," should have been considered in judging of the Langshan, as well as the Black Hamburgh and Malay! Mr. Wright is an ungenerous critic both as regards his friends, and those to whom he is opposed, but since he has chosen to revive this controversy, we feel bound to state how Mr. Ludlow came to be writing about the Langshans at that time.

In June, 1879, Mr. Ludlow asked us to lend him a pair of birds to lithograph for an American paper and in doing this he told us he *was curious to see some specimens of the breed over which there had been so much dispute.* We lent him the birds which were promptly returned. To our surprise we subsequently found that Mr. Ludlow had not only engaged to make the lithograph but *to write notes on the breed.* We would here remark that this controversy, was neither provoked or commenced by us. The earlier portions of it were penned by one who opened his subject by stating, that he knew very little about the Cochins, and nothing at all about the Langshan, and therefore thought himself qualified to descant on both breeds. As his remarks throughout were an insidious attack on the Langshan we felt called upon to take up arms in its defence. The American paper had reproduced these earlier portions of the "Controversy" and instead of admitting our defence had entertained Mr. Ludlow's notes in their place. Mr. Ludlow had in a page previous to his invidious comparison of the Langshan with the Black Hamburgh told his readers that the early Cochins, were "*birds whose necks and legs were points to elicit derisive laughter.*" He said these early Cochins were exactly like the Langshan, and in order to emphasize his remarks, had added "in fact if there's any difference, shure they are just alike."

Those acquainted with the Langshan, will understand that this did not incline us to accept Mr. Ludlow's testimony with regard to other breeds. Our impression at the time was that Mr.

Ludlow had strung these notes together from a good-natured desire to oblige his friends. They did the Langshan no harm. Years have passed since their publication, and Mr. Ludlow may probably be better informed on what the Langshan really is. We greatly regret to have to revert to them and thus keep up this perpetual strife!

Mr. Wright says :—

"At the Crystal Palace Show of 1876 the Langshans (in separate classes) and Cochins were placed side by side, and Miss Croad herself states (*Fowls*, August 9th, 1888), 'that many of the former bore so strong a resemblance to the latter that I was absolutely startled.' This was admittedly owing largely to the infusion of new blood; there was no disguise about that; but there was no excuse for the wholesale charges of 'cheating and fraud' brought in consequence against many breeders."

The case of the Weymouth Cup bird adduced by Mr. Wright in confirmation of this is singularly infelicitious, but more of this anon.

Mr. Wright, too, had evidently noticed what startled us, only this happened to be the first poultry show we had ever visited and Mr. Wright had come to the state of things by degrees. In 1873 our birds were disqualified because of their dark legs. At this show we found that most of the entries in the Black Cochin classes had assumed the dark legs of the Langshan, and Mr. Wright actually pointed out in his report of the Langshan classes that :—

"The second prize winner in one class had duplicates in the Black Cochin classes, the exhibitor having simply selected a cockerel rather tall and full in tail, though not so full as we have seen Cochins win with."

He goes on :—

"But Mr. Croad's two pens astonished us most. We thought it had been laid down that Langshans were high on legs and scantily feathered, but one of Mr. Croad's Cockerels was the shortest legged and dumpiest Cochin in all the Black classes, and hocked as was the Pullet in the other pen, the mate of each being barely feathered, they were also the brownest and least lustrous."

We parted with a pair of our Crystal Palace birds immediately after their appearance at that Show, to Mr. Frank Nunn, who won first and second with them at five or six consecutive Shows

—beginning at Cambridge and ending at the Aquarium. When we saw them at the latter place in the following February they were remarkably fine, and absolutely luminous with sheen. When this was pointed out to Mr. Wright in 1884, he gave an extract from a letter of ours that appeared in "*Live Stock Journal*" on October 20th, 1876, the same letter from which we have quoted portions of Mr. Wright's foot-note. From ours he quotes, "not until December or January (Cambridge was at the end of December) *can the Langshan be seen at its best.*" As surely as "the boy is father to the man" so surely does a young bird to some extent prognosticate its future. No doubt time brings changes, and often disappointments, but this would not excuse Mr. Wright's cruel and sweeping condemnation. We would here remark that Mr. Frank Nunn never actually joined the Langshan Club. We are not responsible for any threats he may have used toward Mr. Wright, but we must say that gentleman's treatment of the Langshan and its advocates was only too well calculated to call forth bitter and hasty expressions.

Mr. Wright says, "the use Cochin breeders made of the Langshan by crossing with it, 'for the infusion of new blood,' was no excuse for the wholesale charges of cheating and fraud brought in consequence against many breeders." He forgets that Cochin breeders after using our bird had told us that the Langshan was the "Pariah" of the Black Cochin, "a weed from the Black Cochin breeder's yard." He continues, "one specimen may be given of a great deal that went on. A pen of fowls won as Langshans at Weymouth in 1877, and were bought by Mr. Leys; and a few months later were 'disqualified' as Cochins, not merely 'passed,' but the card attached, and this reason given. This alone would not prove very much; for judges are inconsistent enough at times. But after the Weymouth Show Miss Croad published a letter complaining (on purely hearsay evidence) that her birds were 'robbed' of the cup and that the winners had 'yellow legs.'"

"M. Leys however, happened to be a *believer* in the Langshan and bred Cochins

also; and he stated that these birds were different altogether, and that, moreover, he had other birds hatched from "Mr." Croad's own eggs, and that the two were *alike* and all *black legged*. Moreover, he had chickens from them, and they were utterly "unlike Cochins," and had all the Langshan points as he understood them."

After the formation of the Langshan Club, in 1877, the first Show to solicit a cup was "the Weymouth." One of the Committee wrote asking if we could procure a cup, if he got up two classes for Langshans. He said he thought he had met with specimens of the breed in China, and would like to see them represented at their Show. We succeeded in procuring the cup, when it was discovered that there would be a paucity of entries; and at the suggestion of our "committeeman" we wrote off immediately to all Langshan breeders of our acquaintance, but without success, it was too early in the season! We were then asked to send what birds we could from our own yard, this we did. At this stage of the proceedings, when we discovered the entries were likely to be so few, it would have been decidedly right to have withdrawn the Cup altogether, but we were entirely new to office, and the *idea of drawing back never occurred to us.* After the birds were staged the committeeman commenced a letter to us saying "your Cockerel is safe for the Cup," he concluded it with, "I am sorry to say the Cup has been given to a bird that was purchased by a lady in this neighbourhood as a Black Cochin, and has yellow in its legs."

Two days afterwards we received a letter from a member of the Langshan Club, who in passing through Weymouth had visited the Show. He wrote, "Iwas disgusted to find that our Cup has gone to a half bred Cochin with yellow legs," he added that whilst he was standing near the Langshan classes, he noticed a person holding forth on the breed and he distinctly heard him declare that the Langshan was only the "waste of the Black Cochin." He afterwards saw this individual feeding a Brahma in another part of the Show; on referring to his catalogue he discovered this gentleman was a noted Black Cochin breeder, and that he *had entered birds to compete for our Cup.* To quote Mr. Wright "this was only a specimen of a great deal that was going on."

Mr. Wright seems to have missed the real pith of M. Leys argument which was that the birds purchased as Black Cochins were not Cochins at all but Langshans.

A short time after this Show M. Leys wrote to ask if he might become a member of the Langshan Club, we replied that if he could guarantee the purity of his birds, he would be certainly eligible to join but we at the same time pointed out, that the Langshan Club had been instituted to keep the breed pure. On this M. Leys very frankly gave us the whole history of his birds; he said "A lady in his neighbourhood had purchased the parents as Black Cochins of a Cochin breeder, but she found them quite unlike any other Cochins she had ever seen. She showed them to M. Leys who agreed with her, and advised her to exhibit them in the Langshan classes at Weymouth. M. Leys we know was thoroughly convinced that these birds were Langshans, and he told us he could see but little difference, between them, and ours."

Langshan breeders well know how the Langshan stamps itself on its progeny in a cross, the member of the Langshan Club, and the Committeeman who had had our birds in his keeping, would see traces of Cochins that would not have struck M. Leys. This gentleman in a letter to us about this time, speaking of his Cup Cockerel says, "if my bird is a Cochin I am a Dutchman," but there is little doubt that there was too much Langshan in him for Mr.———to keep."

But we had not done with the Weymouth Cup bird yet. In the autumn we received a letter from a gentleman complaining; he said "you have told us the Langshan is a pure and distinct breed, and not allied to the Cochin, I can prove that you are mistaken, I purchased eggs advertised from the Cockerel that won your Club Cup at Weymouth, and they have produced white and speckled Cochins."

We think we have adduced pretty clear evidence, that the Langshan was not absorbed by the Cochin; that when used as a cross, it did not "simply amalgamate," but visibly declared itself. There were many reasons why we could not have retained this

Cup, had it been awarded to our birds; it was the first Cup given by the Langshan Club, it had been given at our instigation, we were the only Club member competing for it, and as it afterwards transpired, the only Langshan breeder also. We considered ourselves in a measure, the guardian of the purity of the breed, and our protest was made from the highest sense of duty, and not because we coveted the Cup; we thought at the time, that M. Leys honestly believed what he said, and we are still of that opinion although we have proved without a doubt that he was mistaken.

Mr. Wright continues:—

"We must now pass to the more recent history of these fowls. It will occur to many readers that a strain must have some exceedingly good qualities to ultimately live down such a suicidal policy as we have briefly elucidated. Such the Langshan certainly has, and we now have to chronicle how the fowl gradually established its position. We believe that after all we ourselves were the destined instruments in working out this end. All the while the question of distinctness was being discussed, we were on the look out to find something distinctive if we could, and in the years 1877, and 1878, we noticed pens of Langshans shown at Birmingham by Mr. J. Thomson, of Aberdeen, which seemed to us really to exhibit a type widely different from that of the Cochin, and more significant to us—to show the *same type* in all the pens."

Now as we arranged for the classes at Birmingham from 1877 to 1884, we are in a position to state that Mr. Thomson did not exhibit in England in 1877; he sent a single bird at our earnest request to the Bath and West of England Show in 1878. We give a quotation from a letter of his dated June 21st, by which it will be seen that Mr. Thomson's birds had not yet found favour in Mr. Wright's eyes. He writes, "I note with pleasure that you and I have divided the highest honours at Oxford. The '*Live Stock Journal*' must as usual have its sneer, but the editor may some day see his mistake."

At the Dairy Show in 1878 we got up four classes containing valuable prizes for Langshans, the classes numbered 59 entries. Birds that mustered in such force and, we can add, could show such beautiful specimens, could not long fail of recognition. At this Show Mr. Thomson exhibited *a single bird* which won the cup in its class, and it was afterwards passed over at the Crystal

Palace on account of a crooked breast. To all appearance it was a handsome well-made Langshan, and the bird placed before it at the Crystal Palace was also a fine thorough-bred Langshan of absolutely the same type. We believe that all the birds in these Dairy Show classes, with the exception of two, were of our strain *pure*.

Mr. Wright says:—

"When we at last began to notice birds of the same type, as occasionally shown by Miss Croad herself, and accordingly said so, she wrote, '*This I emphatically deny.*"

At the time Mr. Wright first wrote of this grand discovery we had kept Langshans for six years, they had been our almost, daily companions, we had watched and noted their habits, and variations, we knew their types of beauty well. Mr. Wright on the contrary had been using the Langshan as a closed book which he was now pretending to read by a mere glance at the cover. If Mr. Wright had not discovered any difference between the Langshan and the Cochin up to that time it was simply because he had *kept his eyes closed.*

These Dairy Show classes were crowded with birds that no stretch of the imagination could have confounded with the Cochin. Mr. Wright's adverse criticisms at the time have helped us to retain a very vivid recollection of some individuals in these classes. As we stood near we heard many a passer by admire the beauty of a very highly commended pullet of Mr. Elwes, that had the advantage of the light. This bird together with a Cockerel bred by us (a thorough Langshan) was sold. The Cup pullet was a *Langshan* of great beauty Mr. Bush exhibited a fine thoroughbred Cockerel, Mr. Cowell sent up a bird in a basket labelled for pullets, and was consequently staged with the latter, he stood out from amongst them a fine sprightly Langshan. It so happened that a young hen entered by us was the only bird in her class completely over her moult, she was a perfect Langshan of perfect symmetry, yet Mr. Wright had no word of commendation for her! In the following January we sold her to a famous Scotch breeder and this bird won for her new possessor un-numbered Cups and

prizes up to a green old age. Besides this "*Live Stock Journal*" in its reports of the Scotch Shows, more than once gave her the highest enconiums ever passed on a Langshan. We do not say these reports were penned by Mr. Wright, but they were certainly sanctioned by the Journal.

Mr. Thomson's bird having been rejected at the Crystal Palace gave rise to some remarks from Mr. Wright. He asked "why it had been passed over, for here was a bird with some type in it."? On this Mr. Thomson wrote to "*Live Stock Journal*" "I am obliged by your reference in your elaborate report of this Show to my two unnoticed pens. I submit howeverthat there is no occasion wherefore you should take fright, and retreat from the "real type" of Langshans, which you had thought might have given the breed some character of its own and it humbly appears to me that the *retreat* ought to take place in a different quarter."

We were not exhibitors at the Crystal Palace in 1878, but we were present at the Show and considered the classes to have been judged carefully, and that the prizes had gone to the most meritorious birds.

To the letter written by Mr. Thomson to "*Live Stock Journal*" Mr. Wright appended a foot-note from which we give an extract:—

"We never said that type was prevalent, it is entirely different from any type ever shown yet by Major Croad or others who have been prominent in the matter—if Mr Thomson's birds be adopted Major Croad's must be rejected, and possibly the latter might object."

He adds:—

"The Heathen Langshan is peculiar, which the same we are free to maintain."

We waited to see whether Mr. Thomson would lift off this charge from our yard, as he did not we wrote to do so. We said, "After what you have stated with regard to type, we fear Mr. Thomson's yard must be irretrievably damaged, he having received so largely of mine."

In 1879 Mr. Wright continued his attacks, and after the

Birmingham Show Mr. J. A. Lloyd wrote to point out the unfairness of this. He said :—

"The first prize cock in my possession was hatched from Mr. Croad's eggs; when, therefore, you say 'the prizes all went to birds of the type first shown a year or two ago by Mr. Thomson, and which we then noted as being as different as could be to what we had seen of Mr. Croad's,' you must be mistaken, and it seems only just to Mr. Croad to say so."

To this letter Mr, Wright appended a foot-note :—

"We do not see that any mistake is proved against us, we carefully limited our statements to what we had seen, and it is a possible thing for Mr. Croad to have had eggs or stock from Mr. Thomson."

In his report of the Dairy Show in 1880 Mr. Wright says of the Langshan classes :—

"The judge, a Dorking Judge, seemed to us to have gone for colour, breast, and type of outline, as shown by Mr. Thomson some years ago as his three main points."

With a pile of letters in our possession from Mr. Thomson, asking what the points of the Langshan really were, we could not but be amused at this.

At Birmingham in 1880 we arranged for four classes with munificent prizes. For these classes, and on two other occasions, we received the thanks of the council for the help we had thus rendered the show. Yet Mr. Wright, who in 1884 told us it had been his duty for thirteen consecutive years to report on the Asiatic classes at Birmingham, in which the Langshan was included, writes thus :—

"By some misunderstanding the Langshans have not been noted.

He adds :—

"We can only record one general impression that the prizes most if not all went to birds of the Dorking type, which we first noted, as appearing from a Northern Yard and in favour of which the earlier type of bad Cochin seems discarded."

Now this class was one of the best in the show, and numbered 66 entries. We had procured four classes with the following prizes in each: 1st. £4., 2nd. £2, 3rd. £1 10s., 4th. £1.

The persistent opposition that had pursued the Langshan by this time, had caused the original promoters of the Club to fall

away—they continued to believe in, and most of them still cultivated Langshans, but they had wearied of the perpetual antagonism, and we were only leading a "forlorn hope." Our readers may therefore imagine with what labour and expense we had achieved these classes. We had been subscribers to "*Live Stock*" from its commencement, and naturally looked forward to its giving publication to some sort of report of the Langshans—the failing to note the classes *during* the show, and the recording of the reporter's "general impression" *after* the event, tell their own tale!

It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Wright should have seen fit to revive old grievances, and names no longer with us. So far from Mr. Davies having proved the perfect purity of his yard, with regard to the hens he won with at the Bath and West of England Agricultural show in 1885, he frankly acknowledged in the pages of "*Live Stock Journal*," that he had from the first had doubts of these birds, regretted having exhibited them, and did not intend to breed from them."

In a letter addressed to us by that gentleman, on the 30th March, 1886, occurs the following passage:—

"I said or did nothing at that Show, that I recall to mind that could hurt the feelings of anyone except the Judge, whom I found fault with for awarding the prizes as he did in the Hen class. I have ever regretted my indescretion for the sake of the Langshan in sending the big Cochin Hen, the great Scotch winner, I found out my mistake, and acknowledged it."

We think the judge had some cause of complaint, for judges as a rule, are not practical Langshan breeders. Our original club was started with the view to keeping the Langshan pure, and a slip was sent to each candidate for membership to sign, by which he bound himself to maintain the rules of the club. When the club was revived in 1884, we fear this good observance became obsolete. After Mr. Davies's avowal of his mistake, we think the matter should have been allowed to pass into oblivion, but since Mr. Wright has chosen to make it the means of an attack on those who from the first have from the highest motives

striven to keep the bird pure, our only course is to make the truth apparent.

We are not acquainted with all the names in the prize list of the Dairy Show of 1884 given by Mr. Wright, but some of them we should certainly have believed to have exhibited pure stock, without a *doubt*. Mr. Wright says :—

"She (Miss Croad) further wrote, (June 4th, 1886), that she had rejected the birds hatched from eggs Mr. Thomson had sent her, because they were so different from my own."

Many of our correspondents were induced by Mr. Wright's panegyric on his bird to try Mr. Thomson's eggs, and as they rejected the birds hatched from them for the same reason, we need not enter into the matter here. He continues :—

"She had previously to this written admitting that our advocacy of the Thomson type certainly for a short time had the effect intended, but implied that the victory was not yet won."

In December, 1875, Mr. Wright, in answer to "Enquirer", about Langshans, writes :—

"The accounts you have read are from interested parties. We long ago wrote that we could see no distinction between them (the Langshan) and the Black Cochins."

Now when Mr. Wright penned these remarks no doubt "Enquirer" and the readers of "*Live Stock Journal*" generally, believed him to have thoroughly sifted and proved this matter before committing himself to so *rash, false, and libellous a statement.*

We must now revert to a passage we have already quoted from Mr. Wright's recent work. He says, "We noticed pens of Langshans shown by Mr. J. Thomson, of Aberdeen, in 1877 and 1878, which seemed to us to exhibit a type widely different from that of the Cochin—*more significant to us to show the same type in all the pens.*"

Mr. Thompson did not exhibit in England at all in 1887, and when Mr. Wright added the footnote to Mr. Thomson's letter that appeared in "*Live Stock Journal*" on November 22nd, when he said :—

"If Mr. Thomson's birds be adopted, Major Croad's must be rejected,"

we are absolutely certain that this cockerel was the only bird of Mr. Thompson's that Mr. Wright had ever remarked upon. We are also absolutely certain that Mr. Heazledon's cup winner at the subsequent Palace Show was one of precisely the same type. We can add from personal observation that all the prize winners at this show were good typical Langshans.

Langshans were exhibited in pairs at the Birmingham Show. In 1878, we won first with old birds, and Mr. Thompson was first with a cockerel and pullet. We are not in a position to say that the former was the same bird that had appeared at the Dairy and Crystal Palace Shows.

Mr. Thomson did not exhibit at all in England in 1879, but in 1880 he made four entries in *our* Langshan classes at Birmingham, but as these were the classes that Mr. Wright had failed to take note of, of which he wrote .—

"By some misunderstanding the Langshans have not been noted, and we only record our general impression that the prizes mostly if not all went to the Dorking type of body, which we first noted at this very Show, as appearing from a Northern Yard and in favour of which the earlier types of bad Cochins with no breast seems discarded."

Mr. Thomson was not a prize winner at this show, and Mr. Wright from his own confession, allowed the only opportunity afforded him of examining birds from this yard in full force, to escape his observation! Mr. Wright reproduces the illustration of what he is pleased to term "The first or original Langshans," The birds pourtrayed by Mr. Gedney were faithful likenesses of a type that *does* appear, but not our favourite—the combs of both birds are apt to grow too large. It will be seen by the cock's spurs, or rather the absence of spur, that he was very young. As he grew older his plumage would tighten, and his tail assume more voluminous dimensions. It is however a bird that always affords ample breast meat.

Mr. Wright speaks of a squirrel-tailed type of Langshan (unknown to us) as one peculiarly subject to leg-weakness. He remarks on the "*Standard*," published in the "*Langshan Fowl*":

"It was actually found necessary to put leg-weakness in the scale of defects with a penalty of twenty points; a fact which speaks volumes." He adds "the high tail

was moreover peculiarly liable to wry tail, which we noted in the pens repeatedly." —*Vide* Mr. Wright's reports on the Langshan classes at Birmingham in 1880.

Mr. Wright, in a footnote to p. 242 of his new work says :—

"By a curious inadvertence, Miss Croad has recently written letters warning breeders against the present propensity to judge too much by size. The simple fact is that the movement has been all the other way. In the original Langshan fowl "Standard" it was laid down that size must be the first consideration, and an adult Cock should not weigh less than ten pounds, and in the points for judging, size was given fifty points out of one hundred. ! Such a proportion was absolutely unheard of in any other breed of fowl even in the Dorking, In the new Standard it will be seen size is made only one of the first consideration, and the points are reduced to twenty, and the weight to nine pounds. We quite approve of that, so far as it goes, but it seems desirable to point out that the error was due to the first breeders, and not to the present."

It was certainly a mistake to have written that size was the first consideration, and Mr. Gedney on seeing the license to which it had led would have been quick to discover this. To our President, Captain Terry, to whose wise ruling the Langshan owes so much, this alteration in the weight is mainly due. The first "standard" was drawn up in great haste, but we consider it to have been an excellent foundation. It is absurd for Mr. Wright to make the honest desire of Langshan breeders, for a standard of the *highest perfection*, a case against the breed. The standards of other breeds have frequently undergone alterations, and in times past we have more than once seen it stated that the illustrations in Mr. Wright's original work had become old-fashioned. What did this mean ?

No doubt the counting or summing up of our standard was to some extent, erroneous ; but one point that to our mind sums up all the points, was *perfect*, namely, "carriage" and "shape." As we before said the Langshan is a highly nervous bird, it actually clips up its wings and carries them low.

At one of our club meetings, in 1884, a gentlemen on the committee told us he had watched a cock for two hours standing lazily, with wings carried low and tail sweeping the ground—a sudden noise cause it as suddenly to clip up its wings and throw its tail over its head. As for weight, we do not think ten

pounds too much for an adult bird, although nine should not disqualify an otherwise perfect specimen. Mr. Wright gives ten pounds for the Dorking, and we suppose the Langshan may claim to be of equal weight; but by an adult bird, we understand one that would be shown in the old bird classes, and not a bird of the current year. The American "standard" gives a definite weight for both old and young birds, for Cockerels eight pounds. If Mr. Wright read the letter he quotes from in "*Fowls*" he must have been aware that our protest was rather against *coarseness of limb* and *flesh*, than absolute size.

A young Langshan from four to five months old is a tender morsel, a "hungry hunter" could eat bones and all, for the bones are mere cartilage. If on this slight framework exhibitors will crowd an overwhelming mass, we are not surprised that Mr. Wright should have had so many cases of leg weakness brought to his notice. We do not know why Mr. Gedney put leg weakness in *the scale of defects*—leg weakness is a rare occurrence in our own yard, and generally to be accounted for by the older birds running down the younger ones.

We now proceed to deal with the Silkie Fowl. Mr. Wright says (page 239):—

"The Rev. C. W. Hamilton has done much to clear up this matter in some articles published in "*Poultry*" during the year 1886, though we do not coincide in quite all his conclusions. It is necessary to premise that the Cochin itself is clearly a mixture of races, and hence we find it burstiog out continually into long legs, and when crossed to "improve" farm poultry, always doing so. Mr. Hamilton then notices that Temminck's *Gallus Morio* or Negro Fowl probably of Southern origin, was not the Silky as now known, though the Silky is its chief modern descendant. Its chief points were black legs, purple or dark combs, bluish skin, and dark periosteum or membrane covering its small bones. Mr. Hamilton states:—And his statements on this head, were never controverted, that the Langshan very often has a bluish-white skin, and that he has frequently observed the characteristic dark periosteum on the bones; while it is notorious that Langshans very often exhibit a distinctly purple tinge about the head, and comb not as the result of illhealth, but evidently as a tendency to *colour* in the fowl. But the most remarkable fact is the strange tendency to *breed Silky fowls* which distinguishes it. The same gentleman collects evidence that a Silky appeared about 1878 in Mr. Houseman's yard, from a pair of birds hatched from eggs of Miss Croad's, and Mr. Housman also observed several Silky Langshans in a neighbour's flock of undoubted purity. The Rev. A. C. Davies bred one in 1883 from Mr. Bush's Cup Cockerel (Croad strain) and hens hatched from Croad eggs;

the pedigree of this case was at first disputed, but afterwards admitted. Two years later Mr. Davies had another from eggs of Mr. Orme's (also Croad strain) and another gentleman bred a Silky in 1884. In 1885 Mr. Hamilton bred *nine* out of fifty; and Miss Croad herself reports Silkies bred in a yard she traces to Cochin blood. The Cochin, however, breeds this sport so much more rarely, that it appears certain they were due even in that case to the Langshan parentage, rather than the other. The Silky also lays a pinkish egg; and where not *brown*, that is the colour of the Langshan's egg. That the Silky breeds single combs, and bare legs, and that Langshans were imported with crest, and rose-combs, and bare legs, must also be taken into account."

In 1886, the Editor of "Poultry" liberally threw open its columns to the discussions of "The Variations" to be met with in the Langshan—we say liberally, for the Lanshan has not always been a favourite topic. We note that other breeds are equally privileged, and we think our readers will agree with us that this is the best and only method of arriving at right conclusions. Whilst on this subject we would also record our indebtedness to the Editor of "*Live Stock Journal*" (now "*Fanciers' Gazette*") for the "fair field and no favour" accorded to all sides and shades of opinion in 1884, and from that date.

No doubt Mr. Hamilton's articles to some extent conduced to the threshing out of the truth, but they did not contribute *one iota* towards its discovery. We commenced reading these articles with great interest, but we had not proceeded far before we discovered that they were written in the presence of a yard that had not been kept pure. Mr. Hamilton's wild theories, and false conclusions, and incorrect statements, soon wearied us, and if we failed to "controvert" his statement

"That the Langshan very often has a bluish-white skin, and that he has frequently observed the characteristic dark periosteum on the bones, whilst it is notorious that Langshans very often exhibit a distinctly purple tinge about the head and comb, not as the result of ill-health, but as a tendency to *colour* in the fowl,"

we did not contradict this, because the statement was so opposed to our practical experience, that we felt it would contradict itself in the mind of the merest tyro of a Langshan breeder, who had *kept his yard pure.* We have kept Langshans from 1872 to the present year, 1889—during this time we have

bred many thousands of Langshans, but we have never met with the slightest trace of Silky in a single bird--indeed our Langshans have always come true to points of breed. Although we kept Dorking hens to cross with for many years, and occasionally a cross-bred hen (that would tint her eggs) in all the broods we have sent out, we have never been reproached with a five clawed bird. Of course an accidental mixing up of the eggs might have led to such a mistake, but none has ever been *reported* to us. We can point to a yard of some extent that has been bred solely from ours since 1877. These birds have a wide range, and are running about absolutely wild (as is the case with some of ours), the Langshans in this yard have come over and over again true to points of breed; they have never had a trace of Silky in them. In 1886 we could point to three smaller yards of which the same could be said. We have lost touch of two of these, but the third continues to breed true.

Mr. Harry Wallis, the gentleman who has kindly taken upon himself the onerous duties of Secretary to the Langshan Club, tells us he has had four importations from Langshan, and that neither in the imported birds, or their progeny, has he seen either traces of Silky, five claws or purple comb. The first intimation we ever had of a silky occuring in a Langshan yard, was in Mr. Hamilton's letter of December 25th, 1885, and later on in a letter of Mr. Housman's. After the publication of Mr. Wright's book last year, we wrote to ask Mr. Bush if he had ever met with any trace of Silky in his Langshans, and he told us he had hatched some from eggs he had purchased, he thought, from us, but was not quite sure. These eggs must have come from elsewhere. It is at any rate clear that they could not have influenced the cock sold to Mr. Hamilton in 1885.

We sent Mr. Housman his first Langshan eggs in 1878—he did not write again until 1880, when he told us his former hatch had given him a chicken for each egg, but he made no mention of silkies. We think we know the origin of those Mr. Housman spoke of as appearing in a neighbours yard, but we do not care

to give names, and we feel sure that Mr. Housman and Mr. Bush will accept this circumstantial evidence we have given as final. We know these gentlemen to be most careful breeders, and that any tainted bird that appeared in their yards would have but short shrift. If, side by side with Mr. Hamilton's statements, that out of between forty and fifty chickens reared he had as many as nine Silky Langshans, and ours that in many thousands we have never seen the slightest indication, we think we have proved our case. But we will make a minute examination of Mr. Hamilton's arguments. He writes on December 25th, 1885 :—

"To attribute the Silky cross to the Cockerel bought from Mr. Davies, is absurd, for a *truer* Langshan never stepped."

In another paragraph of the same letter he seems to favour the notion that his Silky Langshans, like Queen bees, were probably due to pasturage, for he writes :—

"But to return to the Silky Langshans, which I have hatched this season. If this is an evolutional change, there must be some promoting cause, in the surroundings of the birds. Here I am at a loss. My Langshans are kept out in the open country; they roost in a shed, which stands in what was formerly a plantation, but the trees have been nearly all felled, and the ground is covered with great tufts of long coarse grass, short bushes, brambles, and rushes; here they are undisturbed, and seldom see any one but the feeder. Many fly up into trees for a considerable portion of the year. Now what can there be in such surroundings to favour the development of a Silky variation! Is there any connection, between the wiry grass and the unwebbed plumage?"

In one of three letters received by us from Mr. Davies in 1886, he entered fully into the pedigree of his poultry yard. From this letter we give a quotation :—

"When I wrote last of the Silky Langshans, and stated that my commencement of poultry keeping (with Langshans I mean), began with the Cup Cockerel, Bush's (a strain now much valued because yours) and three pullets hatched from your eggs, I had little idea that you or anyone else would repudiate my statement without positive proof to the contrary."

Again he refers to his yard :—

"I began in 1881 with Cup Cockerel, Palace, Bush's, and three Pullets, hatched from our eggs, I got a few chicks from these, my next move was a Cockerel from Mrs.

Bennett's (Elgin) your strain I believe, from this bird, and a pullet from the pen above, I got two Cup birds in 1883 a Pullet, and a Cockerel. Birds from these pens, were the foundation of my strain. My next fresh blood was Gould's prize winning Cock *which bred the father of the Silky Langshans*."

In the course of events, we think the cockerel from which the Silkies were supposed to have been descended, would more probably be due to Mr. Gould's bird than to Mr. Bush's 1881 cockerel; but Mr. Gould wrote on the 26th February :—

"Your readers may be interested to hear, that though I have bred some hundreds of Langshans, during the past five years, I have never had one with a Silky or any other taint; and my stock at the present time although I do not exhibit as my time is wholly taken up, is perfectly pure."

We would repeat in this discussion that the hens seem to have been entirely ignored. We believe Mr. Gould to have kept his yard perfectly pure, and the taint, for *taint* it was must be looked for elsewhere.

Mr. Wright says :—

"The Rev. A. C. Davies bred one in 1883 from Mr. Bush s Cup Cockerel (Croad's strain) and hens hatched from Croad's eggs; the pedigree of this case was at first disputed and afterwards admmitted." He adds "Two years later Mr. Davies bred another from eggs of Mr. Orme's: (also Croad strain)!"

We feel sure Mr. Orme never bred any Silky from our eggs, or from birds descended from them. What Mr. Wright would convey by his statement "that the pedigree of this case was at first disputed and afterwards admitted" we are at a loss to know. As our name was freely used we had surely a right to be considered a factor in this case. The first intimation we had ever heard or read of a Silky Langshan was in Mr. Hamilton's letter of the 25th December, 1885, and we were *never once consulted* on the matter. We can only repeat most emphatically that we have never met with the slightest trace of Silky in our *own* yard. Both Mr. Wright and Mr. Hamilton quote our remarks on the Silkies we had heard of as being kept by Black Cochin breeders, but they entirely missed the point of our argument and the impression we desired to convey. What we said was that a Black Cochin breeder, who possessed a yard of Silkies, had been

reported to us as having sold Black Cochins to Langshan exhibitors to mate with their birds for increased size. It was suggested to us that Silkies are difficult to keep within bounds and that they had probably intruded on the Black Cochin runs. We should not look upon this as a case of "evolution," but simply as a "cross." Mr. Hamilton speaks of having had Langshans more or less *laced*, the plain English of which is more or less crossed. He gives *us* as an authority, or rather as a confirmation of his many theories, he says :—

"Even in Sussex Mr. Croad quotes a parallel case, the result of his hatches having been affected for some time by the visits of a wild pheasant."

This is what he bases his authority upon :—

"Our man in opening one of the runs for four mornings in succession found a pheasant had intruded, we supposed it had made its entrance through the ventilator at the top, on these being kept closed his visits ceased, but a few chickens that were hatched shortly after the event showed signs of his visits."

We should not have dignified these chicken by the name of *evolutions*, but merely have considered them a very appetising cross. Mr. Hamilton tells us :—

"*He and Mr. Davies are fully agreed* that many hens, that without doubt were descended from imported stock have exhibited either in themselves, or their offspring such traces of resemblance to half bred Cochins as can be accounted for in no other way, than that they had at some time or other been mixed up with the Cochin."

He continues :—

"Nor is there any improbability in assuming that among the village poultry where the Langshan originated there were many birds of the ordinary Shanghai sort."

This we feel sure we can decidedly contradict. The district possesses natural barriers that would negative such an assumption. Many breeders have given themselves opportunities of crossing with the present Cochin, and as the latter had admittedly (we quote Mr. Wright), taken a large infusion of Langshan blood, there would be a strong resemblance. Mr. Hamilton adds :—

"The cloven foot will betray its presence; from the sudden cross of a splendid cock and hen of different imported strains; I once bred a chicken with yellow legs, and feet."

The hen in this case had no doubt been previously mated. As Mr. Hamilton wandered up and down the pages of "*Poultry*," he certainly sought out for the Langshan a splendid family tree—one in which were associated the most delicious table fowls that have ever graced the social board. We find the Le Fleche, the Creve, the Houdan, especially the latter amongst its collateral ancestors, or in some way allied to it.

Far be it from us to repudiate these noble alliances. What happened so long ago does not concern us so much as the present. We know we have an *old established* and very *distinct* breed. This has been proved over and over again by the way in which the Langshan stamps itself on its progeny, and retains its influence through succeeding generations.

In order to account for the white skin and delicious flesh of the Langshan being found in its present "habitat," Mr. Hamilton suggests that the early nomad tribes may have brought them thither in the course of their wanderings. We are not scientific, but we should suppose that the domestication of Poultry in the world's history has been delayed until mankind had resolved itself into settled habitations. Probably the walls of ancient Rome had become well-hardened by time before any Columellas appeared on the scene.

Mr. Hamilton quotes the Latin historian, who tells us that "The Roman legions going to attack certain villages of the Germanic tribes, which were hidden in the forest, were guided to the object of their search by the crowing of cocks." It should be noted that these people were already congregated together in villages, and were not leading a nomadic life. Even should these good nomads have started with the benevolent intention of benefiting posterity—would they stay their march onward "to fresh fields and pastures new" because the sitting hen had not accomplished her days? Then again, how would they reconcile that lady, when the broody fit was on her, to a change of home and scene? The chicken too would prove a sorry problem, as those acquainted with the pleasant troubles of henwifery can

testify. We have tried in vain to follow Mr. Hamilton's theories to a clear issue ; they are as many as the

> "Butterflies that glance across the sunbeams track,
> To take the truant schoolboy off his tasks."

The fact seems evident that Mr. Hamilton in his philosophical experiments used the Langshan as a cross, but whatever breed he used it to cross with, it being a pure and dominant one, would declare itself prominently. Some of these crosses Mr. Hamilton has mistaken for pure, and others for evolutionary changes.

When we sent the first Langshan eggs to Mr. Hamilton, he told us he was keeping Black Hamburghs. We have always thought it highly probable that the rose-combed bird sent us in 1877, was a cross with the Hamburgh, but of this we cannot speak certainly, for the bird has never been accounted for. We have asked in vain for more cocks and hens of the rose-combed variety, but these have never been forthcoming. This importation after its arrival from the Langshan district, was delayed some time in Shanghai, waiting for a ship that would consent to take, what is generally looked upon as an unwelcome freight. In the meantime they were entertained in the yard of a friend, who kept various breeds and crosses, and we have always suspected that this rose-combed bird was one of the latter. That we considered the bird of uncertain pedigree, we proved at the time by offering to replace those eggs that had betrayed his influence. In the earlier history of the Langshan, we received anonymous letters from persons evidently not of education, reproaching us for having introduced the Langshan into this country.

Some years ago a gentleman opened a correspondence with us with a view to prove that we were under a delusion, and that the Langshan was nothing more or less than an *inferior Cochin.* He expressed himself as very anxious to make a trial of some birds direct from our yard in order to prove that we were mistaken, but as at the same time he gave us the name of a gentleman whom we knew to have pure stock, we declined to supply him with

birds. The correspondence however continued, and at length he wrote in jubilant tone to tell us he had at last seen some *real Croad Langshans*, he said "these birds were evidently a cross with the Hamburgh, and the gentleman who owned them, had told him he was afraid to allow his Langshan hens to hatch out their own eggs, as they were apt to eat the chicken." On reading this we wrote off in hot haste to demand the name of the gentleman who had ventured to associate our yard with these "monsters." To this letter we received no reply and the correspondence ceased.

It will be borne in mind that even the name Langshan was for some years denied to the breed. No sooner however was this matter quietly settled and the name allowed, than writers started up in various papers, declaring we had from the first spelt it wrong. They avowed that the true spelling was *Lanchang* and added regretfully, they feared the name had now been so long mispelt that correction would not be possible. All these writers made side attacks on the purity of the breed, which was a sure, and certain evidence that they knew nothing whatever about the district. On reading these articles we wrote off to some of our China correspondents, asking why they had given us the wrong spelling of the name. One of these advised us to send to J. D. Potter, agent for the Admiralty Charts, 31, Poultry, and procure a map in which the Langshan district is comprised, this we have done, and give it in reduced form for the benefit of our readers, who will be able to prove that if we have sinned it has at any rate been in good company.

One of our correspondents sent us a China vocabulary by which we find the language possesses neither grammar or dictionary, under such circumstances to be down on the unlucky wight who has misplaced a letter, seems somewhat far fetched.

A friendly correspondent not fully informed on all points, with regard to this silky "evolution" remarked to us that it could make no difference, whether Silkies were found in the breed or not, to this we fully agree, but with Mr. Hamilton's Silkies we

should have to accept so much that is entirely at variance with all we have discovered in the Langshan that it would absolutely mongrelize the breed. For instance the Langshan never sports five claws; it never has white ear-lobes, and the purplish tinge about the head, and comb spoken of by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Wright, are conditions unknown to a Langshan in good health. The "*different spectrum*" seen in the Langshan blood, by Mr. Wright must we think have been produced by a Silkie cross. No wonder that gentleman should be led to exclaim.

"The Heathen Langshan is peculiar."

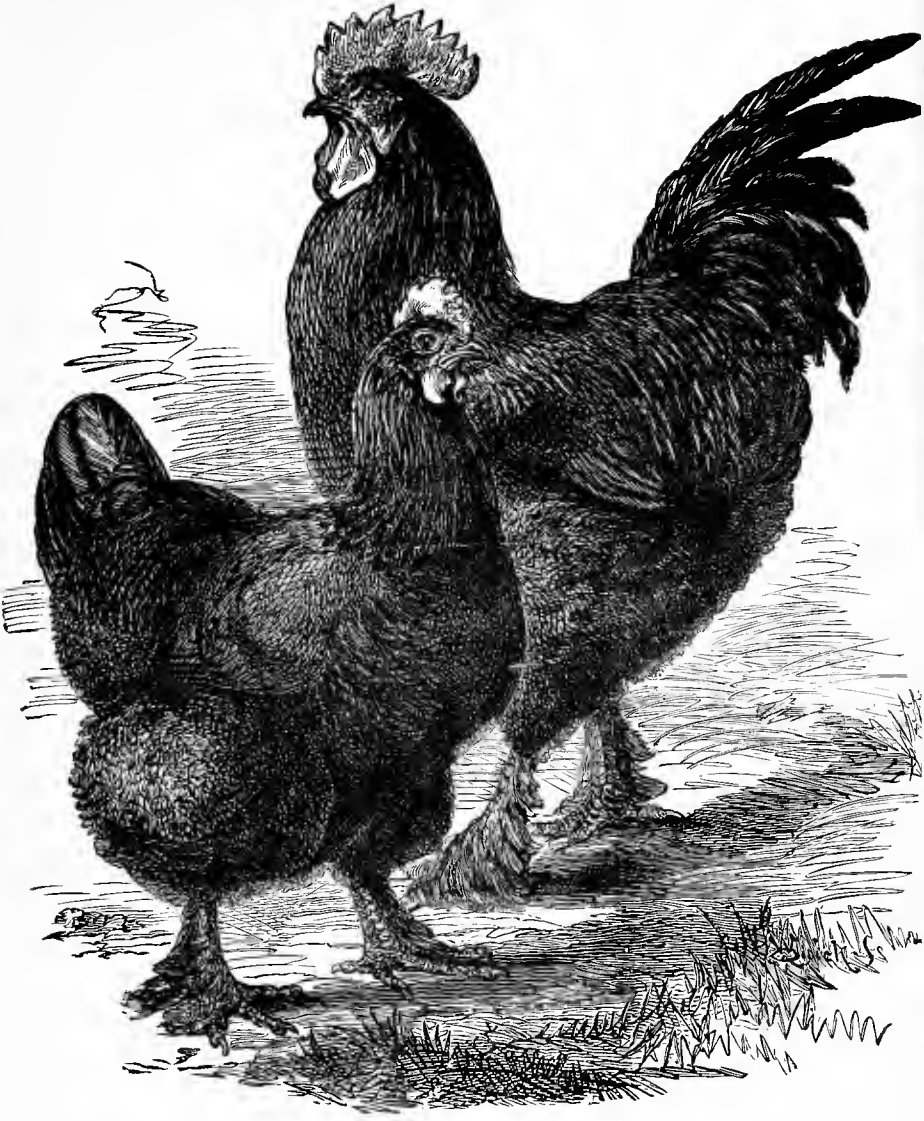
Accidental crosses may appear in the best and most carefully kept yards, this most breeders know to their cost, but to accept these crosses as pure, and even as evidence of purity, does not show a very intimate acquaintance with the Langshan.

As Mr. Wright acknowledged in his later edition, page 241,

"It (the Langshan) is an admirable fowl. The skin is not only white but very thin and the meat is extremely white and *sapid* . . . . it is one of the best layers of any breed known, though the eggs are perhaps rather small . . . These qualities combined with size, and a colour that gives the town breeder no trouble in caring for it, are rapidly extending its popularity on all sides; and the general verdict is, that it is one of the best, and for many localities the very best fowl we have."

But Mr. Wright is in error when he states that Miss Croad had in any way "hindered" the progress of the breed towards popular favour. Had it not been for the watch she has kept over the Langshan it would as far as the show pen is concerned, have been stamped out and a mongrel have taken its place, indeed even now notwithstanding all her solicitude, the prizes (and often the best) go to impure stock. Mr. Wright charges those who have stood by the Langshan *pure* as having been meanly jealous if any *but certain parties* won their prizes, but this is a charge she repudiates for herself and others; she has never been guilty of petty jealousy because others have won, she has never put her own yard to the fore. No, not in a single instance! And to this her correspondents all over the world can testify. She has merely been jealous for the purity of the breed, and this brings us to another error into

which Mr. Wright has unhappily fallen. He suggests that the Langshan is a composite breed, that it is not: on the contrary it is one of the purest if not the purest breed we have, and had Mr. Wright been at the pains to gain his information *first hand*, that is by keeping Langshans himself, he *must* have discovered this to be a self evident fact. The breed declares it to be so without any outside help.



THE IMPORTATION OF THE LANGSHAN INTO ENGLAND.

A LETTER bearing date November 27th 1871, conveyed to the late Major Croad intelligence that a nephew residing in the north of China, had made the purchase of a new breed of fowls for him. Successive letters made mention of these birds.

"The fowls I am sending you are very fine; their plumage is of a bright, glossy black. I am told that their flesh is excellent. The Chinese say they are allied to the Wild Turkey. They are valuable birds—you must be careful of them, and get them acclimatised by degrees."

We would here remark that although this statement of a Turkey alliance was made when our first importation was purchased, it has not been confirmed by subsequent correspondents—the fine skin and snowy flesh of the Langshan might however, excuse those unacquainted with ornithology for accepting such a legend. When the fowls made their appearance here on the 14th of February, 1872, they looked somewhat jaded, and were at first very shy; but this was scarcely to be wondered at, for the many vicissitudes of climate they had undergone, and the unusual locomotion of the last few hours must have tried them considerably. There had, however been no casualties. They soon grew familiar, and in less than a week

their combs and wattles resumed their brilliant red, and their feathers their glorious sheen. On the 16th (two days after their arrival) the hens commenced to lay, and we then made a shrewd guess, which has since been amply verified, that these splendid creatures would prove as hardy as they were beautiful, and that no gradual acclimatisation would be needed.

All who were introduced to our new acquisition agreed in unqualified admiration of their beauty and novelty. A naval officer, who had served in the Chinese War, and had, since his retirement, been a breeder of various kinds of poultry, said, "I have never seen any birds like yours either in China or England; I am sure you have something quite new, and you ought to send them to the next Crystal Palace Show."

As we knew nothing about exhibitions, we did not at first take kindly to this proposition, but after awhile the conceit of having something new overcame our reluctance, and we wrote to the secretaries of the Crystal Palace Poultry Show, who from the description given of his birds, said they believed that Major Croad was in possession of a breed of fowls quite new to this country. Our old birds were at the time of the show in full moult, and those sent up to the palace were not well matched, but our Cockerels and Pullets have never since been surpassed; and although they only brought home a V. H. C., yet we know there were those who thought them inferior to none in that vast assemblage. Unfortunately circumstances prevented our being present at this show, and it was not until the following May that we heard the name "Black Cochin" in connection with the Langshan. Our poultry lore extended far enough for us to be aware that what we in England call the Cochin is really a Shanghai bird; we also knew that our friends in China were familiar with the Cochin, but that their acquaintance with the Langshan was of recent date. After the appearance of our birds, at the Crystal Palace in 1872, there began to be a great talk of instituting a separate class for Black

Cochins; and upon one being established in November, 1873, we, supposing the name "Black Cochin" to have been given to our birds *in error, but in good faith*, entered three pairs of Langshans in the Black Cochin class at the Crystal Palace Show of 1873. The class numbered in all about sixteen pens, but we soon perceived that we had committed an egregious error in entering our birds in a class to which they did not belong. When we had entered them in the "Variety" class they were called "Black Cochins," but in the Black Cochin class they were sneered at for their lack of Cochin points; their combs were too large, their tails were too long (no sickle feathers allowed their legs and beaks and around their eyes should have been yellow; and, indeed, to satisfy these cavillers, we must have instituted a sort of bed of Procrustes, and tortured our birds to fit into their standard of excellence, although anything but a pure Langshan would have been the result. In the meantime a letter from China contained this pithy advice:—"As your birds seem not to be understood or appreciated, why bother about exhibitions!" Why indeed! And we resolved henceforth to keep them at home—at any rate, until Langshan classes could be formed. But this did not prevent us from unearthing the Black Cochin whenever occasion offered, and we soon perceived that their breeders were not without their difficulties, for with all their borrowed plumes they had failed to establish the true Cochin type. The tails of the poor birds had to submit to trimming and plucking, and the legs in the show-pen were of various shades—from dark pencilled to yellow. They had only produced a mongrel after all!

In the autumn of 1875 we received a letter from Mr. Gedney, addressed to the late Major Croad, inquiring if we still kept our breed of Langshans pure, etc. To this we replied, giving the history of our Langshan troubles, and the cause of our birds' retirement from public life; and from that date he has worked with us in our endeavour to obtain that recognition for the Langshan to which it is fully entitled. Through his exertions a

separate class was obtained for them at the Bromley Show in 1875.

So powerful had the opposition proved, that although we had occasionally advertised Langshan eggs, and birds, in the Poultry journals and local papers, we only sold *two sittings of eggs, and three birds* from 1872 to 1876. It will thus be seen we held the breed in our hands during all this time not only reaping no return but at great cost. The recipients of our birds, and eggs fully acknowledged the excellence and purity of the Langshan and strengthened the cause by so much added testimony. A gentleman to whom we supplied one of these sitting in the autumn of 1875 sent us a cutting from the "*Field*" containing a letter from Captain Arthur of H.M.S. "Iron Duke," giving a description of some fowls he had brought over from China, under the name of "Soo-choos." He had purchased them on the island of Chusan, and the account he gave of these birds so entirely corresponded with the appearance of the Langshan that we sent the letter on to Mr. Gedney, who in an article to the "*Field*" of December 4th, 1875, advocated the claims of the Langshan to public favour with great force and ability.

This letter was followed by one from an old resident in China. It was signed "Shanghai" and fully endorsed all that Mr. Gedney had said of the breed. We afterwards discovered that the writer of this letter was Mr. Richmond Keele the gentleman to whom we believe is due the honour of introducing the Pekin duck to this country. Our China correspondents tell us that the Langshans purchased by Captain Arthur on the island of Chusan, must have been imported thither as much as they would be to England, for it is not a breed common to the island. Chusan is well known to the European residents in China as the burying place of the soldiers and sailors that fell in our first war with China. Some years ago a friend who had made one of a party of visitors to the island sent us a full account of the burying place, giving the epitaph of every grave on the spot, all telling a more or less pathetic tale.

We think that a letter written subsequently by Mr. Keele would well find a place here: it appeared in "*Live Stock Journal*," March 7th, 1884, as a sequel to one written by Mr. Harrison Weir:—

"I was very pleased to see in the journal that interesting article on the Langshan fowl, especially coming as it did from such an authority as Mr. Harrison Weir. My long residence in China enables me to confirm all his remarks, as to the Langshan being a distinct breed, peculiar to the district from which it takes it name, the Langshan crossing on the river Yangstze, some hundred miles or so from Shanghai. It is more than twenty years since I first saw these large black fowls brought from there, and when in Shanghai last winter I was offered a crate full that had just arrived from the same place. It is a strange fact that this breed of fowls has been kept pure, and bred as they have been to retain all their good qualities, indifferent as the Chinese notoriously are to keeping breeds of fowls or animals distinct, taking indeed as a rule no trouble in the matter. Only in the breeding of the Langshan fowl, the Silkies, the Pekin duck, and I might add the Pekin Pug, have I ever seen in China any attempt at keeping a breed distinct. Cochins of the various sorts, buff, brown, partridge, and light and dark silver pencilled (these last no doubt the origin of the Brahma of to-day), may be seen at the villages about Shanghai running together, with no attempt to keep the varieties separate. It is true that in different parts of China breeds both of animals and poultry peculiar to the district may be found. For instance, I have seen cattle brought from the far interior of China very similar to the old-fashioned Herefords, with deep red coats, mottled faces, straight backs, and rather long horns; while on the Eastern Coast, cattle of the Brahimin type obtain; short in the horn, and with the hump so distinctive of the Indian animals; while from Soochow, one used to get a breed of geese of very great size, quite unlike in shape and carriage to the geese usually seen in China. And so with the Southern Rice Dogs, in each case I believe the animals were the common breed of the district, but no trouble had ever been taken to keep them pure.

"The Langshan fowl, as well as being endowed with the numerous good qualities described by Mr. Harrison Wier, retains also in its name a title really descriptive of the place from whence it comes, and so, unlike most of the other varieties of poultry, which rejoice in most inappropriate titles, for instance the Cochin—can it be supposed for a moment that the originals came from Cochin China? At the time the first importation arrived, now some forty years ago, Cochin China was almost a *terra incognita*, there were no ports opened to foreigners or any vessels coming thence to England. Certainly in Cochin China, at the present time, this large breed of fowl is not to be seen, unless it be a few in possession of some of the Chinese traders who have come from Canton and Hong Kong. It is not the common breed of the country which are small. In Shanghai, on the other hand, these large fowls are very common, and Shanghai was opened to foreign commerce about the time these birds were introduced into England. I have no doubt, in my own mind, that it was from there that the first birds came and that they should rightly be called Shanghais, and not Cochins. So with the Brahmas—has a large breed at all like this ever been seen on the Brahma Pootra or any of the districts adjacent? All the fowls I have ever come across in that part of the world have been small, excepting now and again a

larger bird of the Malay type. In Shanghai silver pencilled birds of the Cochin type are common enough, and from these Brahmas have doubtless been bred !

"As a boy I remember the fowls now classed as Malays were called Chittagongs or Malays. I was in Chittagong last year, and then made diligent search in the markets and country, and hardly saw a specimen, though the port is still noted for its poultry. The chief exports coast-wise being eggs and coolies, the first going to Rangoon in immense qualities. The breed was rightly enough called Malay, for wherever Malays, with their cock-fighting proclivities, are found there these fowls abound. I have seen a hundred or more cocks tethered by a string round the leg on a patch of grass just far enough apart to prevent fighting. A breed of fowls that as a boy, in the Isle of Wight, I possessed, was the Rumpless, then also called Cingalese. One never sees them now at any of the Shows, though they were a handsome useful sort. Waterton, in one of his essays, speaks of these fowls belonging to a villager near Walton Hall, who professed to have got them from the island.* If I remember rightly the naturalist did not look on them as a distinct breed, but as abnormal specimens of common fowls, which had been bred from, and which retained their peculiarities. I did not hold the same opinion, and recent experience confirms my idea that they are a pure breed. Last year I was travelling in Burmah, and at a little known port in Arracan, Kyouk, Phyoo (it will be better known perhaps when its natural mineral oil wells are developed), I saw at a village some veritable Rumpless fowls, excepting some a friend in Sydney, N.S. Wales, showed me fifteen years ago, the first I had seen since I left the Isle of Wight many years ago. I saw no other until I reached Monlmein, where there were a few. Further South, in Savoy and Mergin, they were plentiful enough, and I think they should have been called Tenasserim fowls, and not Cingalese. I certainly never saw any like them in Ceylon. However, forty years ago, when many of these breeds received their names, the genus globe-trotter was not invented, and people's geographical ideas were rather mixed."

Our readers will, we think, agree with us that Mr. Keele's testimony is that of a traveller who has seen a great deal, and gives us his views on a matter of which he can speak with absolute certainty without the slightest bias.

From the appearance of Mr. Gedney's letter in the "*Field*" may be dated a new epoch in the history of the Langshan. That gentleman was the recipient of a voluminous correspondence; all of which he handed on to us.

At the close of December we received letters from M. St. Hilaire, the Director-General of the Acclimatisation Gardens in Paris, and M. Pierre Amedee Pichott, the editor of the *Revue Brittanique*, himself an ornithologist, and the author of a valuable

*It is to be noted that Darwin also speaks of these birds as "so variable in character that they hardly deserve to be called a breed."

work illustrative of the various plants and animals acclimatised in the Society's gardens. These gentlemen asked for further particulars of the Langshan, and after some correspondence a pair of these birds was sent to the Acclimatisation Society. The Director, in writing to inform us of their arrival says: "We consider the Langshan an interesting and precious addition to our collection. They are consigned to our *poulerie*, a portion of the gardens devoted to domestic fowls, of which we have fifty varieties."

The colour of the legs must have proved a great difficulty; for whereas in 1872 the dark legs of our birds were objected to, we find in 1874 the judges began to affect this dark pencilling, and we have on record the complaint of a Black Cochin breeder that his birds had been rejected on account of their yellow legs. "I thought *yellow* was the right colour to breed into," he says. And so it had been up to the time of Major Croad's importation, but when in availing himself of the sheen of the Langshan, the Black Cochin breeder found himself obliged to accept the hue of its legs, instead of giving honour to whom honour was due, he merely said, "Mais nous avons changé tout cela!"

In the following May the unsolicited honour of the Acclimatisation Society's medal was awarded the importer of these birds.

At home, in the meantime, we had sent eggs to various parts of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

As the chickens grew and prospered we began to receive inquiries about exhibitions. We had already experienced the tender mercies of the "Variety" Class, and had resolved never again to avail ourselves of that "refuge for the destitute" so we determined to see what could be done towards forming Langshan classes at one of the leading shows, and it was at length arranged that the Langshan should appear on its own merits at the Crystal Palace. After this show a section of the "fancy" made the Langshan classes a subject of virulent attack, one declaring the classes to be a "queer joke," and that our birds were the "dingiest and least lustrous in the Show." Another in counting

up the various breeds that had appeared, pointedly left the Langshan out, disdainfully remarking that *it was not worthy to be counted amongst the statistics of the show.*

The Langshan has "run the gauntlet" and still survives. It is with great regret we reopen this matter, but recent utterances oblige us to do so. Letters subsequently poured in from Langshan breeders who had been non-exhibitors, some of these regretted that they could not have replaced our "dingy" birds with some of theirs which were lustrous in sheen, and on the 28th of December the following letter appeared in the "*County:*"—

"Having carefully read the correspondence in your paper for the past nine months on the Langshan fowl, I cannot see that its opponents have at all shaken the position originally claimed for it by Mr. Gedney. No one seems fairly and exhaustively to have gone into the merits and demerits of the Cochin and Langshan side by side, and opinions, however *strong*, without *evidence* to support them, must not be allowed to override *facts*. As an amateur, I have bred these birds in a yard by themselves, with two kinds of Cochins, also in a yard by themselves, side by side, and I am strongly impressed with the individuality of the Langshans as a distinct family from those recognised as Cochins. I think for beauty and real utility, the Langshans deserve to be better known, and those who are now striving to popularise these birds are doing good service to the public by endeavouring to increase a valuable food supply."

"My object in writing is to request you to allow me, through your columns, to appeal to Mr. Croad, as the representative of the original introducer of the Langshan, to seriously consider the propriety of establishing a 'Langshan Club,' upon some such basis as the Leghorn, or the proposed Spanish Club; and if he can see his way thereto, and will kindly take it in hand, I think he need have no fears for the result."

To this appeal we at once responded, and the Club held its first meeting at the Westminster Aquarium, Colonel Crawley, a brother officer of the late Major Croad (although not a Poultry Fancier,) kindly taking the Chair. Mr. Lambert was appointed President and Mr. Frank Nunn acted as Vice-President on this occasion. The following rules were the result of our meeting.

RULES OF THE "LANGSHAN" POULTRY CLUB.

I.—That a Poultry Club be and is hereby established, to be called and known by he name of "The Langshan Club."

II.—That the object and purpose of this Club be the honourable protection and extended cultivation of the Langshan Fowl, as introduced from Langshan in the North of China, in the year 1872, by the late MAJOR CROAD, of Durrington, Sussex.

III.—That to promote the above object, as many and as liberal prizes as the funds will permit be offered for the competition of Members of the Club, at such leading

Shows as the Committee may determine; and that a notification of such Shows be sent to each Member.

IV.—That a Special Committee be appointed to decide upon a "Standard of Excellence" for the Langshan; and that their decision be final.

V.—That the management of the Club be vested in the following permanent Honorary Officers (who will be *ex-officio* Members of the Committee), viz.: President, Vice President Secretary, and Treasurer, and a Committee of Eight Members, one half of whom shall retire annually, but be eligible for re-election. Three Members of the Committee to form a quorum for business.

VI.—That persons admitted to Membership do subscribe (at their own option) One Guinea or Half a Guinea per annum. All Members alike to share the benefits of the Club, and Vote, but the Guinea Subscribers only be eligible to serve on the Committee,

VII.—Foreigners subscribing to the funds of the Club shall at once be entered as Honorary Members of the Committee.

VIII.—That Non-Members of the Club who may offer special Prizes (of not less than Three Guineas value) for competition by Members, be entered in the Register as Patrons.

IX.—That the power of admitting Members be vested in the Committee. That the names of persons attending this Meeting, or proposed and seconded thereat, be forthwith entered in the Register of the Club as Members. That persons hereafter desirous of Membership apply to the Committee, and at next meeting be ballotted for —one-third adverse Votes to exclude.

X.—That any Member who in the opinion of the Committee behaves dishonourably may be expelled by a two-thirds Vote, and shall have no further claim on the Club. No special reason need be given for such Vote.

XI.—That Cards of Membership be signed by the President and Secretary, and supplied as Vouchers of the same.

XII.—That Members omitting to pay Subscriptions for three months after date, and after receiving notice of the same, shall have their names erased.

XIII.—That Members only be eligible to compete for Club Prizes.

XIV.—That Members wishing to compete for Club Prizes do enter their names and pay their fees, &c., through the Secretary.

XV.—That Members be supplied with a copy of these Rules, and sign a paper expressing their willingness to abide in all points thereby.

XVI.—That two Meetings be held yearly—one to be called the "Annual Meeting," for the Election of Committee, passing Accounts, &c.—the dates and places to be fixed by Committee.

XVI.—That Members of the Committee be permitted to Vote by Proxy on Forms provided for that purpose.

These rules were assented to at our first meeting. We must add that they were framed by one who has never at any time exhibited a Langshan. We have always found it very difficult to maintain rule the 13th. It was inserted in no illiberal spirit, but with the sincere desire to prevent the Langshan from being

stamped out as a mongrel. In looking back on the past few years it seems a marvellous thing that a breed possessing so many fine qualities should have met with such persistent opposition. We have literally had to *fight for every inch of ground.* There is no doubt, in making this stand against the Langshan, Cochin breeders hoped to do away with its identity. We quote from an article that appeared about this time. The writer tells us "that the Langshan is not only a *mongrel*, but a *sad mongrel;*" he says "it is his belief that they are a cross between the Black Cochin and some white-skinned plump fowl. Be they, however, mongrels or a distinct breed, one thing is certain, and that is, weedy Black Cochins have done duty for Langshans in their own classes, and Black Cochin breeders advertise and sell their refuse birds as birds of the Langshan type; and as these are purchased as Langshans, whatever their origin may have been, such birds will soon be wanting in those peculiarities which Langshan admirers claim for their breed."

Such a warning was not to be lost upon us. It has been urged that by strictly adhering to rule the 13th, the best birds would possibly have to be passed over; but as the Club prizes have always been devised to help Langshan classes, and to enable the committees of shows to give an *increased number of prizes* to an *increased number of recipients*, the show prizes would be open to all comers, and surely a judge could be empowered to affix some mark of distinction to any pen of peculiar merit. We could not, of course, prevent Cochin breeders from selling their "weedy Black Cochins as Langshans," but of the two evils would it not be wise to choose the lesser?—better (supposing such a case) to allow a club member with an inferior Langshan to carry off its cup than that a half-bred Cochin be endowed with it, and thus defeat the main object for which the Club was formed. It must be remembered that the work of the Langshan Club has differed materially from that of the Leghorn, Spanish, &c. Whilst we have been battling to keep a mongrel out, others have been doing their best to force it in, and get it

accepted as pure. All acquainted with the breed are aware that the Langshan *never* sports yellow legs. Yet half-bred Cochins with yellow legs, entered in the "Variety" class as Langshans, have been endowed with prizes; the same type of bird has also in an open Langshan class carried off the club cup, and when Langshan breeders have written to remonstrate, pointing out the rule that appears in the schedules of every show—namely, "that birds entered under a wrong name will be excluded from competition"—they have been told that there was nothing amiss in the award, that the Langshan was a bad Cochin, and they were advised to breed for *Cochin points*.

The Langshan is now so widely diffused, and has club members in almost every locality—rule the 13th has, therefore, wisely and naturally been done away with—but the days of which we are writing caused it to be a necessity *as far as we were allowed to keep it*, and we think the stand made against the breaking of this rule has helped to keep the Langshan to some extent pure. To show the up-hill work we had at this time, we quote from two local papers sent us from Birmingham after the Show of 1879. One reported the Langshan to be a "*capital layer, but a bad table-fowl;*" another that one of the judges had been heard to say "*that the Langshan was a good table-fowl, but fit for nothing else.*" These witnesses, who were "not agreed," made out a good case for the Langshan *on the whole*, but the public, who probably only saw one side of the question, would naturally be misled. We give an extract from a report of the Show that appeared in one of the Birmingham papers of that year:—

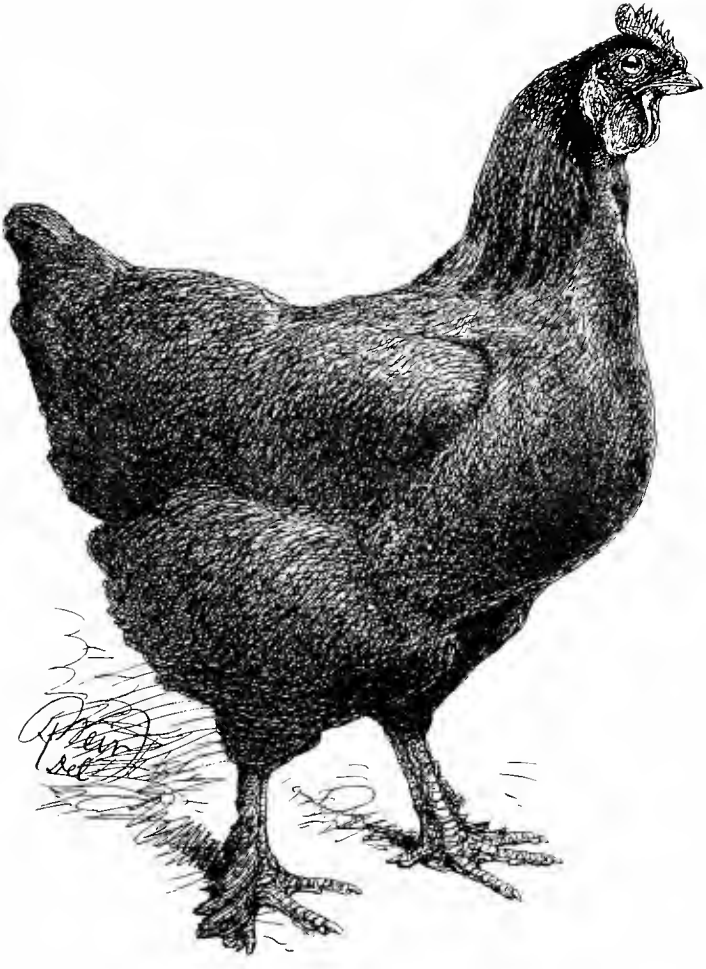
"In Blacks the Cochins showed a decline in number. Some fine birds were shown, but as a whole so much commendation cannot be given as in former years. Next come the Langshans, which are less distinguishable from their black neighbours than in former years, and it would appear as if they were breeding out of their distinctiveness, which, although always slight, is now decidedly slighter. The second prizes are the gift of a 'few breeders,' and if the Langshans are to reach popularity there can be little doubt that some such special action on the part of their admirers will have to be continued."

We reproduce this extract solely because it shows the char-

acter of the opposition with which we had to contend. The writer of these remarks must have been entirely *ignorant* of his subject or have known that his statements were *utterly untrue*, that he was in fact reversing the order of things.

In the autumn of 1883 a fortunate circumstance brought the Langshan to the special notice of Mr. Harrison Weir. He told us at that time even from the view he had obtained of the Langshan through the wires of the show-pen, he had felt convinced that it was not a Cochin, but having other interests and objects of thought, he had not considered it worth while to throw himself into the fray, but when he understood the nature of the conflict he at once decided to draw a lance in the service of the breed Mr. Weir's testimony is of high value for he has from his earliest days been an ardent Ornithologist and Fancier, besides being an animal painter of no mean repute. The children of this and succeeding generations will have good cause to remember the genial artist, whose drawings have added such a charm to their story books, and taught them at the same time the love of the beautiful and the love for dumb animals. We feel sure Mr. Weir took up arms for the Langshan at first out of real benevolence ; he saw the breed was being sorely persecuted and came to the rescue. Mr. Weir's memory carries him back to the time when the Cochin first appeared on our shores and therefore he has had practical experience of what he writes. Moreover, as long ago as 1852, he took the portraits of a pair of Black Cochins and can speak from his own knowledge of what they were like, and he says they were *totally unlike the Langshân.* We can truly add that had they resembled the Langshan they could not have been Cochins.

The following letter was published in the "*Journal of Horticulture*" of 1879, and is from the pen of Doctor Gabb, of Bewdly. Being an amateur of long standing he well remembers the introduction of the early Cochins ; this combined with his ornithological knowledge gives his opinions some weight.



"LANGSHANS."

"As you were good enough to allow a few observations of mine on Langshans to appear in a recent number of your Journal, and as from the communications I have received these appear to have excited some interest, a few remarks on the same subject, suggested by a visit to the late Birmingham Poultry Show, may not be uninteresting.

"At the late Poultry Show at Birmingham it appeared to me that, however unwilling the breeders of Black Cochins may be to allow that there is any difference except in name between their birds and Langshans, most of the exhibitors of Black Cochins clearly manifested their appreciation of the qualities of the Langshan by showing birds only with a considerable amount of the blood of the latter in their Cochin veins. I could only find two cocks in the Black Cochin class with any approach to a just claim to purity of breed as Cochins, and these two were, in my opinion, not free from an infusion of Langshan blood. All the others in the class which I had time to examine were at least half-bred Langshans. Their owners may or may not have been aware of their true breed, but the facts are as I have stated them. This may be called a cool assertion, but I write about that of which I have a practical knowledge.

"A Black Cochin till recently differed scarcely at all, except in colour, from any other Cochin. It had the same short, yellow, profusely feathered legs, the yellow in the dark varieties being greenish-yellow shading into black instead of the bright yellow of the lighter-coloured birds, yellow being the essential basis of the colour of the legs of every variety of Cochin.

"It is a remarkable fact that since the introduction of the Langshan the Cochin type in Black Cochins has rapidly diminished. At the Show in 1877 it prevailed at Birmingham much more than it did in 1878, a mixture of the breeds by crossing having evidently been extensively carried out—not by the breeders of Langshans, they know too well the quality of their true-bred birds to allow the degrading influence of such a cross in their yards. Among the Langshans at Birmingham in the late show there was one pen that struck me by its remarkable Cochiny appearance, and there was one exhibitor who showed both Black Cochins and Langshans, as he severally called his birds. The same exhibitor did exactly the same thing in 1877, no doubt in good faith believing the two breeds to be essentially identical, as anybody who has unwittingly got hold of half-bred birds may easily persuade himself. I quite believe the Black Cochin has been greatly improved by crossing with the Langshan as from the distinguishing characters of the two birds it would necessarily be.

"In comparing the two breeds, it is not only as large, handsome, hardy fowls and good layers, but as table fowls with delicately white and tender skins, breasts well covered with choicest meat, legs and thighs in subordinate proportion when dressed such as to delight equally the farmer's wife who is proud of her poultry, and the housekeeper upon whose table it is destined to appear, that the Langshan will find a place —a place which, as a test of quality, no Cochin will ever approach.

"As, according to certain critics, the purity of the breed of the Langshan is not now disputed; as he is no longer considered a cross-bred bird, a Cochin with something else; as he is allowed to have certain valuable qualities, though undistinguishable; and as he is still accused of being only a Black Cochin with legs as long as a Malay's, it may be well briefly to contrast the more obvious characteristics of the two breeds side by side:—

"THE COCHIN.	"THE LANGSHAN.
"Comb and wattles small; in the hen very small, scarcely rising above the feathers of the head; always single, erect.	"Comb and wattles large and very brilliant; in the hen comb sometimes erect, sometimes falling over to one side as the Black Spanish hen's; single, double, or rose-combed.
"Fluff abundant; the tip of the tail feathers just appearing through it.	"Fluff but little, the tail feathers standing several inches out of it.
"Legs large, short, profusely feathered, always yellow, but rarely long and lightly feathered.	"Legs neither large or short, not too long or profusely feathered, sometimes featherless, never yellow, rarely short, and rarely freely feathered.
"Pectoral muscles small, not sufficiently developed to enable the bird to fly.	"Pectoral muscles well developed, enabling the bird to fly.
"Thighs very large, and disproportionate to all other parts.	"Thighs not too large, nor disproportionate to other parts.
"Breastbone short, with but little meat upon it.	"Breastbone long, with abundance of meat upon it.
"Narrow across the shoulders.	"Very broad across the shoulders.
"The hen a determined sitter, very difficult to prevent.	"The hen a very light sitter, very easily prevented.
"The skin of the Cochin is yellow, coarse, and jaundiced looking when dressed for the table.	"The skin of the Langshan is delicately white and fine, and very tender, easily torn in plucking.

"The skin of the Cochin, in fact, like the skin of the Negro, indicates a tropical or sub-tropical region as its home; while the skin of the Langshan, like the skin of the Saxon, affords evidence of a temperate or cold climate as being its natural habitation.

"In conclusion, if such marks of difference as above mentioned are not enough to establish a distinctness of breed, there can be no distinction between a Malay and a Game or a Bantam and a barndoor fowl. Still there are other distinctions which will ultimately appear in public. Everybody knows that Dorkings are single-combed and rose-combed, if not occasionally tufted; so are Langshans in their own country, as shown by the occasional importation of such birds by Mr. Croad. I have some pure-bred rose-combed Langshans, but I never saw a pure-bred rose-combed Cochin, nor do I believe that anybody else ever did."

We never possessed but the one rose-combed cock; he came in an importation sent us in 1877; he was a very handsome bird, and had all the appearance of being pure. He reached us in excellent condition, and had evidently reigned supreme during the voyage, for whilst the other cocks (who were younger) looked cowed and dejected, he stepped out of his travelling cage as though he had just come off a pleasure trip. Finding this bird

was unaccompanied by any hens of the same variety we gave him separate quarters, and this we believe caused him to die of grief shortly after. We set some of the eggs laid by the straight combed hens that came with this importation, but as it was late in the season the chickens got run down by the older broods. Two sittings of eggs, however, that we sent to Dr. Gabb and Mr. Hamilton produced some rose-combed birds, and these the former succeeded in mating. We afterwards discovered this importation on its arrival from Langshan, whilst waiting for a ship that would accept such a cargo, had been entertained in the yard of a gentleman who kept various breeds of poultry. We have frequently asked for more rose-combed birds, but none have been forthcoming. This cock was a supernumerary and we have thought it might probably have originated in a cross with the Black Hamburgh. Knowing well the prepotency of the Langshan, when associated with other breeds, we feel sure it might have had all the appearance of purity and yet have been only the result of a first-cross We believe in a cross of this nature the Langshan would soon knock out the Hamburgh element, and if the rose-comb could be retained a very pretty variety would thus be formed. We ourselves have had too much hard fighting to venture on any experiments.

Although we now know that tufts are accidental variations, found in almost all the feathered family, we have looked on our tufted Langshans as a variety capable of fixing, for this reason. Our tufted hens, although mated with an erect combed cock, have frequently given us tufted chickens, but the erect-combed hens have never produced this variety—the tufts in all the Langshans we have possessed have been so slight that when compared with its supposed cogener, the Houdan, one is puzzled to know to what branch of the family tree the latter could be said to belong. The Langshan never sports five claws. It might possibly strike our readers as extraordinary that during all these years so little information in *detail* has been elicited from our China correspondents; but to those who are poultry

fanciers the degrees of poultry lore attained by those who are not is something marvellous. We have had visitors to our yard accompanied by friends, who on seeing a cock with a fine flowing tail have exclaimed, "what a beautiful hen," and even a vociferous crow has scarcely set them right. We should add that when we discovered that the eggs sent to Dr. Gabb and Mr. Hamilton had been influenced by the rose-combed cock we replaced them by others. The Langshan was, from the first, well received in Scotland. Mr. Bennett, of Elgin, has exhibited some very beautiful specimens in the English Shows. We sent his first Langshan eggs to Mr. Lewis P. Muirhead, Helensburgh, in the summer of 1876, and he has been constant to the breed ever since. We give the following extract from an article that appeared in the "*Northern Agriculturist*" of April 18th, 1882 :—

"At a time when so much is being said, and written about the crossing of strains, the following experiment carried out by Mr. Lewis P. Muirhead, Helensburgh, to determine the number of generations one strain through the male would take to obliterate the characteristics of the female of another strain, is peculiarly interesting to all breeders of stock .—The experimenter made use of poultry on account of the ease with which they are manipulated and the comparative shortness of time required to follow out a result to many generations. The female chosen was one of two La Fleche hens with which the late Mr. Dring some years ago won many prizes in England. The type of comb shaped like a pair of horns, white ear lobe, and white egg being strongly characteristic. The males were reared from eggs laid by hens imported from Langshan, North China, by the late Major Croad, Worthing. Upright serrated comb black eyes, feathered legs, red ear lobes, and pink buff eggs, both breeds celebrated for their sheeny black plumage.

First Cross.—Hen, Hamburgh in type, rose comb, white ear lobes, bare legs, amber iris to eye, egg white !

Second Cross.—Hen, leggy, and awkward looking; double comb, lobes white, and patchy, amber of eye rather darker, egg cream colour.

Third Cross.—Hen Langshan in appearance, comb waxy, eye darker, egg pale buff.

Fourth Cross.—Hen quite Langshan, full bodied, pink toed, feather legged, dark eyed, egg buff.

Fifth Cross.—Hen a perfect Langshan, full bodied, pink toed, feather legged black eyed, upright comb, red ear lobes, egg pink-buff. The chicks were almost black in the first and second cross ; light canary colour, with the black velvet jacket of the Langshan in the last three. The gradual alteration of the colour of the egg, from the pure white of the La Fleche to the curiously characteristic pink-buff of the Langshan in five generations is specially worthy of note."

Mr. Hamilton gives it as his opinion that it would have taken twice as many generations for Mr. Muirhead to carry out his experiments had there not been a pre-existing relationship between the Langshan and the French breeds. Dr. Gabb writing later on in "*Poultry*" May 14th, 1886, expresses it as his opinion that the Langshan and Royal Indian Game, or Aseel, are the two most distinct breeds of poultry he has ever been able to examine. Without feeling competent to give a decided opinion on the matter of the French breed, we greatly incline to the belief that the distinctive nature of the Langshan may have influenced these experiments. Those who accepted the Langshan in 1876 have as a rule been most constant to the breed. We sent M. Amedée P. Pichot a cockerel last year, when he told us his interest in the Langshan remained unabated.

No breed has certainly ever suffered more from the virulent attacks of open enemies, and the treachery of seeming allies, but it has also received the most generous countenance and support from the most thoroughly disinterested friends. As an instance, we would adduce the formation of the club which we may look upon as the outcome of the abuse showered upon the Langshan after its appearance at the Palace in October, 1876. On reading the appeal in the "*Country*" in the following December, we were reminded that the writer had applied to us for eggs during the previous summer but this was the first intimation we had received of his approval. As we before stated, this gentleman never exhibited, neither did he we believe ever sell a bird or an egg. He drew up the rules for the first Langshan Club, procured the books for our use, put us in the way of transacting its business, and then retired from the scene altogether. Another constant friend and most munificent patron of the breed is Mr. H. Morrell, of Headington Hill Hall, Oxford; he it was, we believe, who originated the classes for Langshans at the Bath and West of England Show, and we know he for many years sustained them by *giving all the prizes*, this at a time when the Langshan was so put to the "ban" that its very name was only

a signal for contempt and abuse. Besides the Bath and West of England prizes Mr. Morrell has given unnumbered cups and prizes, as many a local show can testify. The Langshan Club is now a flourishing institution, and the breed has attained to popularity everywhere—even those who were its opponents being converted into ardent admirers. We feel sure its generous patron will value this as the best return for his long continued and most disinterested help.

The admirers of the breed were for some time termed a "band of enthusiasts" by way of reproach by its opponents, and, indeed, there seemed some colour for this, for no breed we have heard of has ever created so great an enthusiasm; no doubt much of this was due to the opposition, but a *great deal* must be allowed to the breed itself. Many years ago M. V. La Perre de Roo opened a correspondence with us in order to hear more about the birds that had so charmed his fancy; he told us one of his great delights, when residing in Paris, was to visit the Jardin D'Acclimatation and watch the Langshans, he considered them one of the most beautiful and interesting breeds he had ever in his vast experience come across, and no sooner had he begun to rest from his travels and settled down at his country residence, Chateau Villiers, than he sent to us for a supply of Langshans.

Mr. C. W. Gedney, to whose generous help we were so greatly indebted for the introduction of the Langshan to the notice of the poultry world, determined not to sell a bird or egg in this country until the breed had become thoroughly established, lest his advocacy should be laid to the charge of "interested motives." This of course did not prevent his sending elsewhere, and he it was who shipped the first Langshans to America, to a Mr. Samuels, a gentleman thoroughly capable of forming an opinion on their merits, and he at once pronounced them to be a pure breed, and distinct from the Cochin. Birds of our strain, but not from our yard, subsequently appeared in other parts of America and Canada. They were invariably well received by those to whom they had been consigned; but like the Langshan in

England they met with most determined opposition from a section of the "Fancy."

An American Poultry "Monthly" in 1879 contained a letter signed G.P.B. which we were told was from the pen of Mr. G.P. Burnham the well known American "fancier," we subjoin an extract :—

"As winter layers I have never seen their equals. My Langshans moult early, and commence to lay in November. All winter long, through the spring following, and into mid-summer, they continue to follow up their laying vigorously. They are easily broken up when they incline to sit, and go about their work again vigilantly. For the table their meat is most excellent. I have bred of these chicken a large surplus of cockerels thus far, which have made superior broilers and young roasting fowls when used in my family. The chickens are very hardy with us; of seventy hatched last year, and so far nearly one hundred got out this season, I have not lost one bird, nor have I ever seen a sign of any disease among them. They come brood after brood alike, too, and show no falling off in general good quality as yet. I consider the Langshan a valuable addition to our breeds of poultry in this country, and I have no doubt they will come to be very popular as they become better known. When bred from pure stock they always prove highly satisfactory in every particular —G.P.B. also makes mention of a letter received by him from the United States Consul Hang-kow, who describes this breed as among the best esteemed in China. He says, 'they are brought from the Langshan district;' he adds, 'there is a clear white variety, as well as black, bred in the same district. They are very beautiful but scarce."

One or two of our correspondents have mentioned this variety they are supposed to have been "sports" from the black. It was in 1879 we sent the first Langshan eggs to the late Mrs. R. W. Sargant who, always an ardent fancier, became a most enthusiastic admirer of the Langshan. Through a long and trying illness her poultry continued to give her solace, and amusement, and Captain Sargant told us only the day before her death she dictated a long letter for him to send to the poultry journals in defence of her "black beauties." Captain Sargant is himself a keen fancier, and it will give our readers some idea of the large way in which poultry keeping is carried on in the United States to hear that he has 15 incubators, and over three miles of poultry fencing, at the present moment lying idle, waiting for the time when rest from active duties will enable him to resume his old hobby.

To the letter which contained this information he adds "I still keep a few Langshans for it is a breed that wears well."

In 1886 American Langshan breeders formed themselves into a club. As in England it was instituted to keep the breed pure. At the time of its formation a printed protest was circulated, of which a copy was sent to us for perusal. We transcribe it, verbatim :—

PROTEST.

A. A. HALLIDAY, Secretary American Langshan Club, Bellows Falls, Vt.

DEAR SIR,—As the prime object of the American Langshan Club is to preserve and protect the Langshan fowl from any admixture of other than pure Langshan blood, and having satisfied ourselves beyond a reasonable doubt that what is known as the Black Diamond strain of Langshans are but a cross of Langshan and Black Cochin, possibly filtered down through several generations.

We do hereby, as members of the American Langshan Club, enter our protest against any person being admitted to the American Langshan Club whose birds are in the least tainted with the Black Diamond strain of Langshans. In making this protest we do not object to individuals, but fowls, for we know full well that many honourable persons are breeding the Black Diamonds under the erroneous impression that they are pure Langshans. We however, candidly believe otherwise, and therefore respectfully call your attention to this protest, and ask that you will investigate and decide as promptly as may be what constitute pure Langshan fowls, and if our statement is correct that you, under orders of our worthy President, will for ever debar such breeders from entering our Club, while breeding such strains, or enjoying any of the privileges of the Club. Subscribed at Buckley, Iroquois Co., Ill. this twenty-fifth day of May, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven.

W. L. R. JOHNSON,
H. FORRESTER.

About this time Canon Forrester wrote to the "*American Fanciers' Gazette*," giving the raison d'etre and the objects of the American Club. He says :—

"As things are now the country is being flooded with a mongrel of no certain character, under the name of Langshan, and unless something is done to distinguish between the mongrel fraud and the pure stock the breed will inevitably fall into disrepute, and disappear from public view. That it will be lost entirely there is no fear, so long as there shall remain a few breeders who know and appreciate the breed. The public cannot afford to lose the Langshan, for it is the best general fowl in existence. That the standard and the judges are not sufficient for the preservation of the breed in purity is only too evident, and that so-called fanciers are not so persevering is still more manifest. I believe there are some of the latter, however, who are trying to do it, and to these I now propose the organisation of a Langshan Club for the carrying out of this purpose. Let us have a Club, start a pedigree book, discard all doubtful stock, register what is known to be untainted with foreign blood,

and sell nothing without guarantee. For my part I have made up my mind to buy no more Langshans except from breeders who will give pedigree and guarantee to my satisfaction. I could name some very prominent breeders of so-called Langshans, whose stock in my hands has given unmistakable evidence of being impure. Let us have a club."

We were sorry to learn that the strain to which the objection in the protest was made had emanated from the yards of successful English breeders. We have never heard how the protest was received, or whether its admonitions really passed into law. Mr. Francis Mortimer, of Pottsville, Pensylvania, was elected President of the newly-formed club, and to show us how earnest he was in prosecuting its work he told us he had travelled hundreds of miles through many of the States of America, in order to secure for it a firm and lasting basis. Mr Mortimer tells us he has succeeded in procuring some pure White Langshans. The Langshan, from what we hear, is more liable to sport white feathers in America than with us in England—he did not tell us whether these birds were from "sports" in America, or imported from the Langshan district. The Langshan has for a considerable time been very popular all along the Pacific Coast. In a letter we received from Mr. Kesling, the editor of the "*California Cackler*," he writes:—

"Regarding my Langshans; allow me to give a history of my efforts to get possession of fowls that I was satisfied had no foreign blood in them, After much enquiry, and trouble in 1886 I received through an American resident in Shanghai, six cocks and six hens. They proved hardy, prolific, and withal thoroughly Langshan in their habits and actions. February, 1888, I received among a nice lot of Black Langshans, *one white hen*, she was of good size and vigorous, and bore the Langshan characteristics in an eminent degree. Of course I had no use for her without a cock, and sold her to a neighbour who had some white "sports" she is without doubt the first pure white Langshan ever imported, she made a good record of laying, producing forty-two eggs in forty-seven days. Being more than ever convinced of the superiority of Langshans of pure blood over the much mixed fowls generally bred, I urged my friend to obtain for me more fowls of both varieties. By renewed efforts and the co-operation of a Jesuit priest who was engaged in missionary work in the Langshan district, I received, 26th February, 1889 (the day before yesterday), a fine lot of Black Langshans, and with them two more Whites. I should tell you my White Langshans have light horn-coloured beaks, slaty-blue shanks, with abundant pink colour on bottom of feet, and running up the shanks. In plumage they are solid white, otherwise they do not differ from the Black Langshans."

The account given by Mr. Mortimer of his white Langshans agreed exactly with that given by Mr. Kesling of the ones in his possession.

The fact that some naval officers engaged in an exploring expedition had come across some Langshans elsewhere, and had afterwards met with them at Hangkow, and that another naval officer had brought some from Chusan where he had seen them in considerable numbers, led us at first to the belief that the breed was widely distributed, and the name a mere localism. But on sending our book to China, our friends there told us that in this matter we had been mistaken, that the Langshan was strictly limited to the district of that name and only found in other parts of China by importation. One gentleman with whom we opened a correspondence at that time, told us he had been in the Imperial Service of China ever since 1859, that he had travelled thousands of miles in the interior in all directions, and had never come across the Langshan in any other part except by importation. He told us Chinese names usually bore a signification, and that *Lang* should be translated *two* and *Shan hills*. He added that he and other residents in North China, well remembered the introduction of the Langshan to the European community, its date was fixed by the placing of a Lightship outside the Langshan crossings in 1862, the officers and crew of the Lightship landing to explore and forage, came across this fine breed of fowls, and as occasion offered would send presents of eggs and birds to their friends in Shanghai. Mr. Keele before quoted who is another independent source of information had in the meantime narrated the circumstance of the lightship and of the Langshan being confined to the district to a lady correspondent in England, these facts were therefore generally known. But the order of things changes. A year or two since a correspondent well informed on the subject wrote :—

"The Lightship was stationed off the Langshan crossings in 1862, but it has long since been superseded by a double line of buoys. Steamers have frequently come to grief on these shoals, but I have never heard of but one total loss. The Langshan

crossing is about 50 miles above Woosung, the entrance of the Hwampoo river, a tributary of the Yang-tze."

This correspondent tells us he visited Soochow, or Soochoo, a city situated a few miles from Langshan. He writes :—

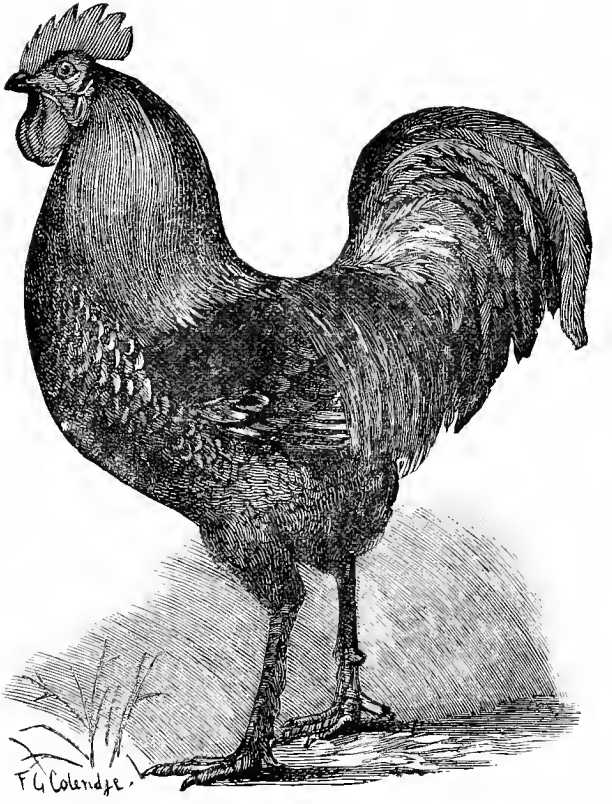
"It was for some time the stronghold of the rebels, and was stormed by Gordon in 1863. I was there during the latter part of 1864. I did not find many ruins, and the city is better built and the streets wider than the run of Chinese cities. I was in one large house or palace built all on one floor, extending over a great area—it reminded me of the pattern on the old 'willow' plates, the bridge, the boat, doves flying about made quite a picture (the doves on the willow plate are the souls of the lovers)—there were a lot of dismounted guns about the place, they may have been there for fifty years. The Chinese do not take care of their guns, they leave a good number to Joss, who sometimes sells them!"

Anyone who studies the chart of the Langshan crossing and district will be at no loss to discover why, before the placing of the lightship, Langshan was a sort of "terra incognita" to the European inhabitants of Shanghai, although the distance by that route is comparatively insignificant. There is another long and circuitous route of some hundred miles, and we think it probable that stray Langshans may have been brought down to the coast by this route even in the olden times, but that Cochins were ever taken up to the district is in the highest degree improbable. Many of the Buddhist monasteries occupy sites of enchanting scenery. In a work in our possession, "*Illustrations of China, and Its People*," two or three of these edifices look as if they had been niched into the mountain side by luxuriant ferns and trailing plants of great beauty. These buildings are not as a rule placed amongst the busy haunts of men, but in isolated far away spots. The Temple at Langshan is of Pagoda form, a style of sacred edifice common to some parts of China. These Pagodas are supposed to have been originally erected as beacons and watch towers, as well as for the purposes of their religious "culte." This theory is said to be corroborated by the circumstance that Pagodas are much more numerous in those parts that have been subject to invasion, and whose history from the earliest times has been a record of warfare and strife. Langshan was close to if not quite within range of the Tapiang rebellion,

which our hero Gordon so effectually quelled. We had hoped to present our readers with an illustration of the Langshan Pagoda, but "our artist," hearing he was to appear in print, at the last moment withdrew from his promise.

There can be no doubt that the Langshan is a bird whose origin dates very far back. When asked how they came there, the Chinese invariably reply they "do not *know*; they were *always* there," and the bird itself bears out this theory entirely, for as Dr. Gabb remarked "It is one of the purest and most distinct of breeds." The priests at the Temple look upon them as "Joss," or sacred birds. At one time we know they made great difficulty in parting with any specimen. When they are in full moult is the outer "barbarians" best time, for they are then considered unfit to offer to their gods. As the Chinese follow the heathen custom of feasting on the meats offered in sacrifice; a Langshan in good condition would no doubt be a plea for themselves. We are not prepared to affirm that the Langshan is the only bird used as a votive offering by the dwellers in the "flowery land," for we have noted in the China papers sent us, the mention of a dead cock having been placed by the slayer beside his victim; no doubt as a propitiatory offering to Joss. As the Chinese are believers in the transmigration of souls, they probably consider the dead bird will work an "evolutionary" change of a very high order, although not according to the rules of modern philosophy. A good story told by Le Comte of the deception practised by the Bonzes or Buddhists Monks of his time, makes one doubt whether they could actually deceive themselves. We give the story as it bears repeating.

"Two Bonzes seeing one day in a rich farmer's yard two or three large ducks, fell on their faces before the door, and sighed, and wept grievously. The good woman seeing them out of her chamber window, came down to see what was the occasion of their tears. We know said they, that the souls of our fathers are transmigrated into these creatures and we are in fear lest you should kill them. It is true said the good woman we did intend to sell them but since they are your fathers, I promise you we will keep them. The good men so wrought upon the feelings of the woman, that she finally presented them with the ducks, and that very evening they enjoyed a feast on their degraded fathers."


F G Coleridge.

THE EGG, THE CHICK, AND ADULT FOWL.

IN a yard where several Langshan hens are kept, the day's basket of eggs affords a really pretty sight. "Handsome and beautiful," have frequently been the expressions used by strangers on receiving their first sitting, and it has as often been remarked that they have all the appearance for a wild bird's egg, and not that of a domestic fowl.

We have been told there is an individuality in hens eggs, and that the person used to collecting them can generally divine by which hen each particular egg has been laid. Be that as it may, the Langshan seems to defy all set rules in this respect, and indulges in a charming variety; the tints are varied from the palest salmon to the darkest chestnut brown. On some there is a bloom like that on freshly-gathered fruit, whilst others are spotted, often literally splashed all over with dark spots, and the same hen will tint her eggs differently one day from what she does on another. We have noticed that these spotted eggs occur most frequently during the spring months, when the secreting organs are most active and the calcareous matter which forms the shell is more readily obtained by the hen.

Langshans are unrivalled as the layers of rich medium sized eggs; many of the younger hens lay during a greater part of their moult, but this is an exhausting process, and should not be encouraged. They do not like a damp atmosphere. By this we mean an unprotected roosting-place, or a yard standing in mud or water; this checks their laying powers and decreases the size of their eggs. One of our hens roosted in a yew-tree all last winter, and although the cold did not check her laying, yet her eggs were much smaller than those laid by her during the summer months. These birds are unaffected by frost and cold, and it is really a pretty sight to see a flock of them wandering about when the snow has lain, their brilliant plumage contrasting finely with the pure white of the "beautiful snow." At such times they seem as full of prank as a party of schoolboys, the birds frisking about, dipping their beaks down into the snow and scattering it abroad with evident enjoyment. The pullets usually commence to lay at about five months, but the early matured birds do not invariably prove the finest; for our part we prefer their being less precocious. A pullet that begins to lay, say in November, will often go through the winter with little interruption and will moreover, give her possessor an immense number of eggs before she evinces the least desire to sit. A breeder of these birds complained that up to May of last year, (1876), not one of nine hens had asked for a nest. Langshans may bring out a brood of chicks at any season, but what we desire to enforce, and what is really the case, is that after every batch of eggs is laid the hen does not go "clucking" about the yard as though life had no duties or pleasures save those of maternity. April and May are the months they chiefly delight in for this purpose. When the hen has once selected the spot for her nest it is difficult, nay, almost impossible to reconcile her to another. When a valuable hen evinces a persistent desire to sit it is as well to gratify her, for it keeps her in health and helps her through her moult; we have lost more than one fine bird through not observing this excessive

broodiness. Some of our hens fixed on the roof of an old shed for the purpose this spring! Although a Langshan breeder will, if he has good stock, be well supplied with eggs during the winter and early spring months, if he desires early chicken he may probably have to avail himself of the services of a hen of another breed, or in these days of incubators, provide himself with one of those useful little machines, which might be made to fill up every gap. The Langshan, although a most careful and exemplary mother, whilst still with her chicks will, if the weather be genial, begin to lay again. When the chicks break through their prison-house they are very pretty, interesting looking little things, active and sprightly to a degree, and all who have reared them—without taking form or plumage into the question—agree that they are distinct in habits from any known breed. The presence of a stranger, or even a cross-bred chick, is easily detected in the newly-hatched brood; and it has been remarked, by those used to breeding game, that Langshans covey like young partridges. It cannot be said that they are the birds who "in their little nests agree," for before they have been many hours out of the shell there is occasionally a stand-up fight between the stronger members of a brood.

The back of the nestling is covered with black down, and the head, face, and breast are a mixture of black, white, and different shades of canary colour. These shades are by no means distributed according to rule—in some the light predominate, and in others the dark. A chicken with reddish down, or one all black, should be rejected. The legs, when the chicks first emerge from the shell, are in some pinkish, like a young Dorking's, in others they have already assumed the dark pencilling peculiar to the older birds. Whilst losing their down there comes a time when they are not attractive-looking, but the appearance of the plumage during this stage depends greatly on circumstances—the shelter and care afforded them, the food with which they are supplied, etc. When they have donned their first black coat they have much the appearance of young turkeys, but

it is not until they are about five months old that the cockerels and pullets give indications of their future grandeur; every day then finds them increasing in size and beauty. They are admitted on all hands, by those who have kept them, both in England and France, to breed very true to feather, and this is the strongest test of purity. The young birds of both sexes often retain their white nest feathers until almost fully grown, and during this period occasionally have white, or a tinge of white, about them; this oftenest occurs in the primaries of the wing. This peculiarity has surprised many amateurs unacquainted with the breed, and in some instances it has been difficult to make them believe that, with the assumption of adult plumage, these white wing feathers would be replaced by perfectly black ones. We have seen the same thing occur with other breeds of poultry. Now and then a Langshan cockerel will show red or golden feathers, which generally appear in the hackle or saddle, one or both, these coloured feathers always come with the first adult plumage; they are repeated, feather for feather, after every moult, and one generally finds that these specimens have only taken another form of beauty, for we have occasionally seen a cockerel that looked as if a shower of gold had descended upon him—the yellow plumage, having all the lustre common to the black, shining in the sunlight like burnished gold.* As we before stated, they are not all cast in the same mould: some stand high, others are closer to the ground; some have a tolerable amount of leg-feathering; others, again, have little, and, in rare instances, are nearly bare-legged. In some the combs droop, in others they are erect, and with the edges fine and evenly serrated. Some have black eyes, others hazel; and all these various types (if we may so call them) were represented in our imported stock, so we look upon them as accidents and *non-essentials*, for in points of intrinsic merit all agree. The same glorious brilliancy of plumage, the soft

* The hens never contract coloured feathers, but, like all other black breeds, are liable to white.

yet vivacious expression of the eye, the erect carriage, the neat tapering head and neck, arched hither and thither at the slightest sound ; the white and delicate flesh, the light frame-work—these are the heritage of all the family.

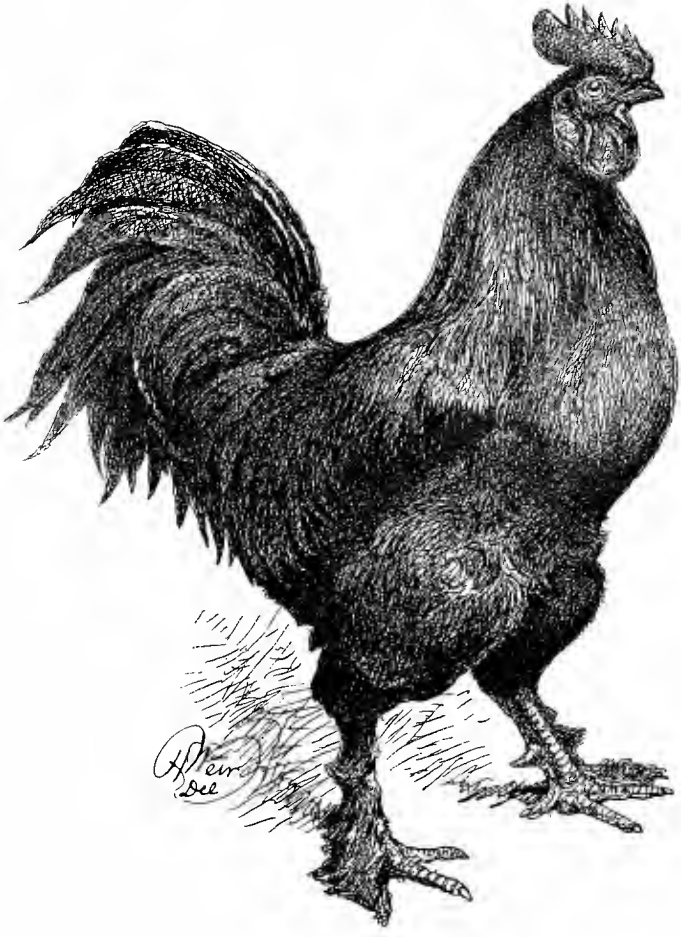
Visitors to our yard have frequently said "The Langshan is a perfect gentleman." They have remarked on the peculiar call, loud yet not unmusical, with which he summonses his hens, to partake of any choice morsel that falls in his way. Of the food scattered he partakes sparingly himself, and when his hens are satisfied, starts off with the proud high step inherent to his race. A thoroughbred Langshan cock is a very difficult subject for fattening. Some years since we put some cockerels up to fatten in an enclosed run, improvised in the stable ; we wondered that the soft food was consumed, yet the birds did not increase proportionately in weight. The mystery was at length solved. Some hens had discovered their way to the spot, and going into the stable one morning we found these "captive knights," passing the food through the wires of their prison house to the ladies outside. Even when cocks are isolated should there be light in their dwelling when food is given them, they will call to an imaginary seraglio to come and share it. We have often found that to shut a bird up for fattening only causes him to pine away and reject his food.

A cockerel or two with a limited run get on fairly well. The hens and pullets are greedy enough, and fatten easily, as will also cross-bred birds of either sex. We have had Langshan-Dorking cockerels of immense weight, and it is just to add individual cocks of pure descent are sometimes an exception to this rule. As we have before stated the chicken in a brood are apt "to show fight"—still, when Langshan cocks are bred together they lead fairly peaceable lives: there are the leaders, and one is chieftain, whilst the others are mindful to eat below the salt until their turn for promotion comes. But let a bird from another yard appear, and there is "war to the knife"—he is the universal butt. Many years since one of our imported

cocks reigned with despotic sway—our principal yard at that time was an immense place, with houses ranged around and runs attached—there was a large grass plot in the middle, and a field at the back. In these the birds occasionally met, but no cock or cockerel dared to come within range of this tyrant; we could only guess at his advancing years by the immense length of his spurs, which must have been deadly weapons. He was bright and vigorous as ever until *one day he found his master.* We could not discover that any serious injuries had been inflicted in the fight, but from that moment he pined away, hid himself from view, crouching in a corner, and refusing all food, he soon died crest-fallen and broken of spirit.

The Langshan is a remarkably thin-skinned bird, and this is especially noticeable in the red appearance down the leg and between the toes. For this reason a chicken of this kind is always considered difficult to pluck, and indeed, it is so fragile that a touch of the knife will almost joint it when brought to table. The legs are dark pencilled; in the older birds (especially during moult), the colour fading into a silver-grey; and the legs are moreover, slender for the size of the bird, the toes being more flexible than we have noticed in any other large breed of fowls. There is in this breed perfect freedom from that essentially Cochin disease "elephantiasis,"* or scrofula, which accumulates

* We could say this up to 1887, but since then some cases have been brought to our notice. We are told that birds with leg-feathering are more or less subject to this disease (we have noticed some very suspicious looking clean-legged birds). No doubt the Langshan owes its comparative freedom from this disease to its not being so profusely adorned with leg feathering as other Asiatic breeds. The cases in our own yard have invariably appeared where the birds have had no perches provided for them, a few for convenience sake having been housed in the Bamboo cages in which they came from China. A Langshan, if allowed its choice, will take the top-most perch. We have heard these scales by some attributed to the workings of an insect, and they are really not unlike coral reefs in embryo. Foster's ointment will at any time remove these unpleasant excresences. Another quicker but severer method is the application of lead ointment but this would not answer for birds destined at once for the show-pen; Foster's ointment would then be the best and most reliable. We have had but little occasion for its use, but when applied it has always had the desired effect.

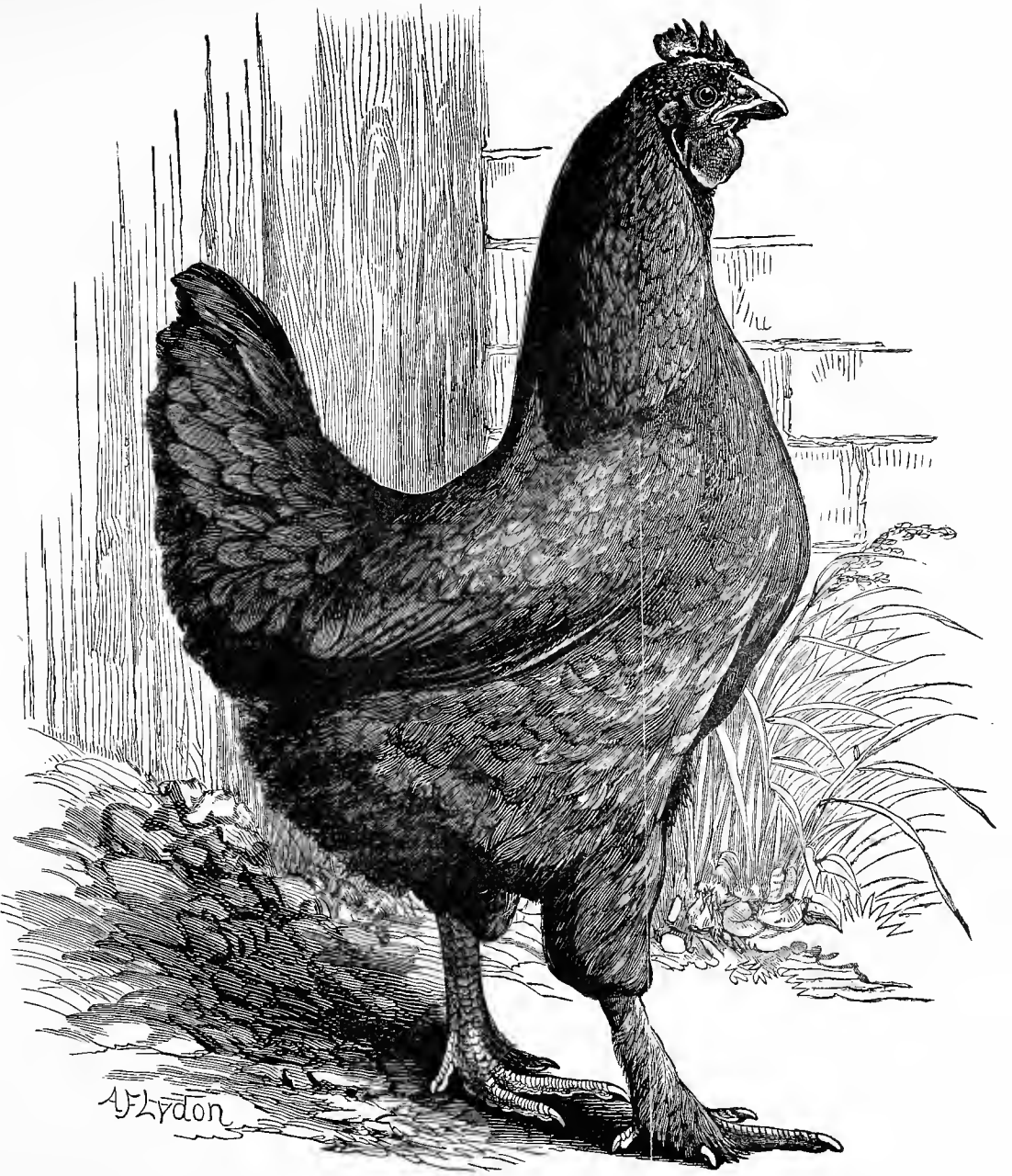


in such masses upon the legs of Cochin fowls as to make them as they advance in years, perfectly loathsome. This merit of the Langshan is of itself a very conclusive answer to those who seek to confound the two breeds, and, as a consequence, none of our opponents have ventured to say anything about it. The leg feathering takes a line down to the middle of the two outer toes, the beak is of a dark horn colour, stout at the base and slightly curved towards the tip ; the comb of the cock is of a strikingly brilliant red, the wattles somewhat pendulous. The tail, which is carried rather high, is a true fan-shape within, composed of a mass of glossy feathers curved inwards; and in the younger cockerels the sickle feathers remind one of a lyre, but in the luxuriant plumage of the older birds this idea is lost sight of. The side feathers or "hangers," as they are called are abundant —wide at the base and tapering to the point, falling in graceful curves on either side. The sickle-feathers project beyond the rest for a length of six or eight inches, adding greatly to the characteristic appearance of the bird.

The Langshans are very hardy, and easily reared, but they cannot stand pampering ; if you want to succeed with them, let the mother rear her brood in the open air, and so long as they have a dry floor, and protection from rain, they will thrive in spite of frosts and east winds. We have reared January-hatched chickens in the open air without the loss of a single bird, whilst others, "coddled" in comfortable quarters, have sickened and died in the most exasperating manner. The adult Langshan will submit to confinement, and do well if enforced, but prefers liberty and a wide range. The cocks, if pursued, will scale a wall of considerable height ; the hens, though active, are not so venturesome.

The Langshan hen is a worthy companion of her handsome mate. Her comb and wattles are somewhat large, of a brilliant red, and her plumage has nearly as much sheen as that of the male bird ; her port is graceful, and in her disposition she is confiding and docile. The hen that faces this page is

from a photograph by Mr. G. Fielder, who has always been a great admirer of the Langshan, and is now a successful breeder. He has given us some first-rate portraits of Langshans. Birds as a rule are bad sitters, but Mr. Fielder told us that every pose taken by this hen was graceful. Whilst she was in his possession she laid an egg, which, with our permission, he set—this produced a fine cockerel, of which Mr. Fielder also took a photograph, but unfortunately the negative was lost; and the photograph was lost also in passing through the post, or we should have had the pleasure of presenting it to our readers. It was a beautifully executed portrait of a fine typical Langshan. The hen was a great pet, she would follow us about and eat out of our hands. We never saw her with shabby plumage; some of our hens look very wretched during moult. Last year we had two absolutely denuded of feathers shivering about the yard. We think this was probably owing to their having laid during a greater part of their moult. A pair of such birds in the show pen would soon silence those critics who have insisted that the Langshan is an inferior table fowl—the fine bones were exposed to view, and the new feathers looked like black pins distributed over a dazzlingly white surface. All the Langshans we have ever seen (and these must number many many thousands) carry their tails somewhat high. This has been described as "boat-shaped." An American writer calls it "convex," the breast on the contrary as noted by Mr. Weir in speaking of the table classes at the Dairy Show last year, may be said to describe a "concave. The hen in the beautiful drawings generously contributed to this work by Mr. Harrison Weir carries her tail horizontally, but she also carried it erect, precisely in the same form as the one photographed by Mr. Fielder; she was however a larger bird than the latter. The position given by Captain Coleridge to his cockerel has scarcely been appreciated, it is one however in which the Langshan is seen, notably before "entrance to a fight." We had hoped to have been able to give an illustration of the breed in yet another pose, that in which it carries its tail drooping, but this we have not been able to accomplish.


A.F.Lydon

The foregoing was the account we gave of the Langshan in our first edition, it was a plain unvarnished statement of how we found the breed. The raw material so to say. We were so anxious to state the *truth* and the *whole truth* that we overlooked the possibility of these remarks being used against the breed, and proving a stumbling block to persons unacquainted with other varieties of poultry. It is well known that the colour of the eye, the leg, the comb, and the feathers of all varieties of every breed of fowls is frequently made matter of question if not of dispute. We mentioned the coloured feathers appearing in the cockerels because they *did appear* but they did not predominate or give sanction to the assertion that the "Langshan sported in colour as much or even more than the Black Cochins had done." For confirmation of this we refer our readers to the extract we have given from the "*Queen*," on page 8.

We have frequently heard it stated that the late Mr. Dring purposely imported La Flèche cocks with false feathers, because he considered they threw chickens with more brilliant plumage. One of the cocks in our first importation had a yellow neck hackle —it was so brilliant we used to call him "golden throat." Two others came at different times with our earlier importations, and we bred from these. As our China correspondents and Mr. Keele has also told us, the Chinese have no idea of selective breeding, and of course their selection, even did they use any, would be unlikely to correspond with our western notions ; a bird with coloured feathers, for instance, would not be considered a disqualification. When we discovered that these coloured feathers were not *en regle*, we asked that no more of the kind should be sent us ; and any that appeared in our own yard were at once set apart for the table. Last year we had only one bird out of a numerous flock that had just a suspicion of colour in his neck hackle. A correspondent asked us to sell him some pullets to cross with ; we replied, "our pullets are too valuable for your purpose, but we have a cockerel with a few faulty feathers if he would do." The bird was sent, and our customer was so pleased

with him that he considered that he also was too good to mate with any but his kind.

Mr. Wright quotes our account of the breed against us : he says "of course the unsettled state of things which allowed a fowl to stand high or low, to have a small or large, upright or falling comb, heavy leg feather, or bare legs, could not go on for ever." To write in this strain showed an utter absence of practical knowledge, the comb and leg of the Dorking, the length of leg of the modern game fowl, and many more facts relating to many points of almost every breed of fowls, should have been within Mr. Wright's ken and have enabled him to weigh matters in the balance so as to form a correct judgment. He says, "Mr. Hamilton's belief is that the Langshan was produced by a cross of the Negro Fowl or *Gallus Morio* with *Gallus Aeneus*." Now any one who reads or attempts to read Mr. Hamilton's "Variations in the Langshan" would see that he was seeking to trace out a descent for a breed that baffled all his preconceived notions and supposed scientific knowledge.

Mr. Wright, after his profound study of the Langshans (vide his report on these classes at Birmingham in 1880), "cannot" quite agree with "his authority." He says, "We think all the facts point rather to the conclusion that it was a cross of some 'dark-blooded' fowl, like the negro fowl with the Chinese or Shanghai race, itself a composite. In this way only can we understand how sometimes one type comes out, and now the other, largely governed by selection, and also by the crossing of unrelated yards, giving an impulse to reversion." We have always heard that the Buff Cochin was a pure breed, but having no practical knowledge of this bird we are quite willing to accept Mr. Wright's word for its being a composite, but the *Langshan is not a composite*, and Mr. Wright shows his utter ignorance when he makes so erroneous a statement.

The fact that the Langshan produces in itself various types is no proof that the breed is a composite, but rather that it is one that has helped in the composition of other breeds, and it must be

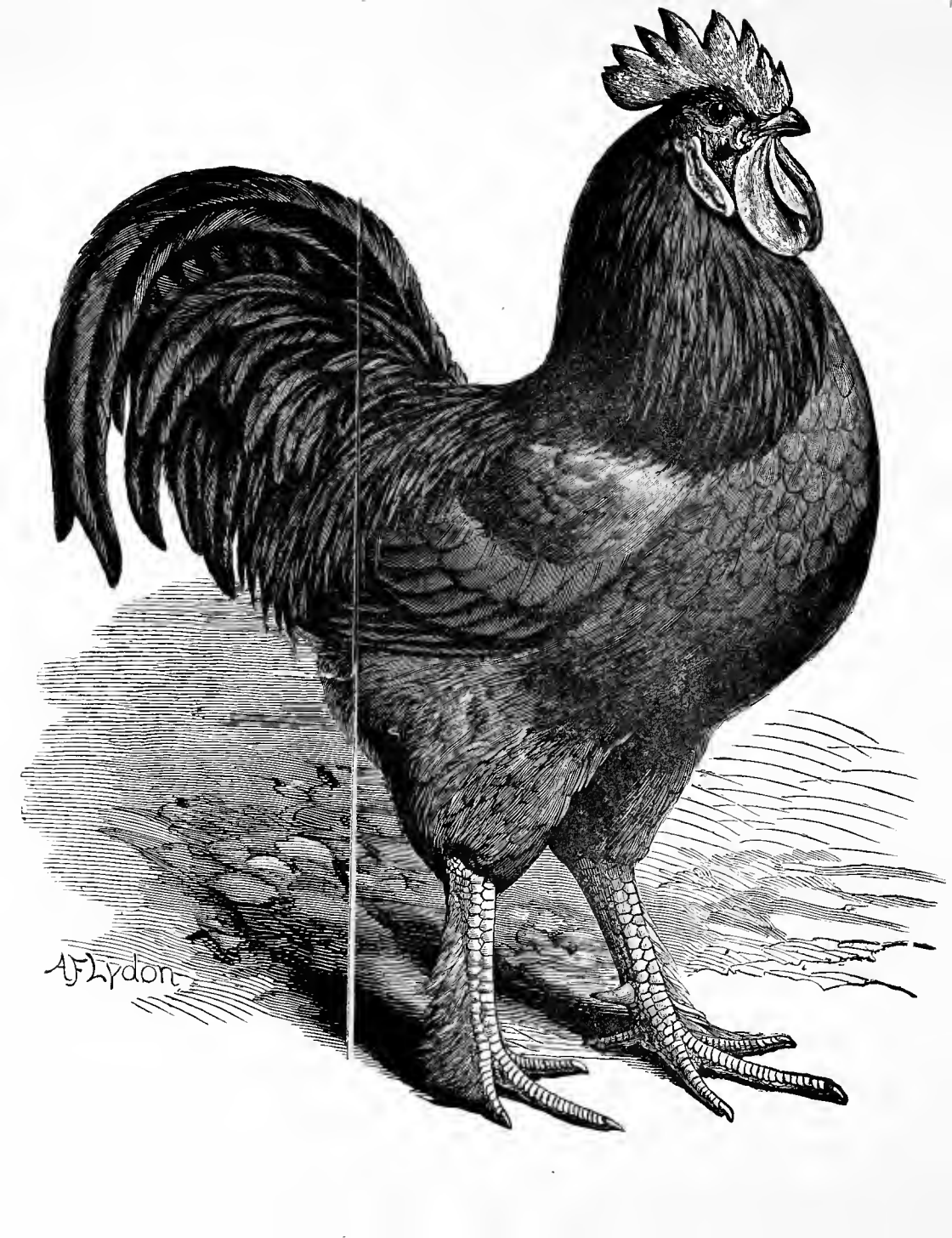
borne in mind that whenever used as a cross it has indelibly left the Langshan stamp on the progeny, In 1872, when our first Langshans arrived, besides a nondescript yard of birds, we possessed some fine silver grey Dorkings. On discovering the importance of our new arrivals, we did away with the Dorking Cock, but retained the hens to cross with. In 1873 we gave a sitting of these cross bred eggs to a neighbour. With the birds hatched from these eggs, we subsequently saw Game, Dorking, and it may be other, cock running, yet still the chicken would in many instances show the Langshan ancestry ; and when we left our old place in 1886 (thirteen years after the event) we were shown some of the eggs, and it was pointed out to us that the tints on these still showed the influence of the Langshan cross of 1873. Mr. Wright continues : "It is simply useless to deny that the Langshan originally bred, and still breeds the much-abused Cochin type apart from any 'crossing' whatever. There are the portraits to begin with. Another proof is that its breeders felt the necessity of breeding the fowl *away from the original type* most prevalent, and of *altering* their own standard accordingly. Thus the legs were altered from 'medium length' in the 1887 standard to 'rather long' in 1888, The leg feather was changed from running down the *two outer toes* to the outer toe only. Most significant of all, the 1877 standard describes the wings as 'well clipped up' while this was altered to 'carried low.' The meaning of this was made unmistakable by a statement of Mr. Harrison Weir, that in his opinion a heavily-feathered bird 'shows at once a Cochin cross,' that the true bird was 'never vulture hocked, and that 'the whole wing tucked up represents the Cochin character and not the Langshan.' Nevertheless there are tucked up wings, and shorter legs both in the portraits and in the original 'standard;' while Mr. Houseman states on the point of feather, and in his very argument for banishing it from the middle toe, which was done in response to his own appeal, that after breeding Langshans for seven or eight years, he had only found feathers on the middle toes in '*one bird that had*

vulture hocks.' The same gentleman, in another letter, states : 'I have had eggs from Mr. Croad from time to time, and *found some of the chickens turn out the very type of the Cochins*, while others are plain-shaped birds with long legs. Any breeder could with care and selection breed the Langshan to the Cochin type."

The fact is the Langshan is a highly nervous bird, a creature too of many moods, it both clips its wing up and carries it low, the latter no doubt predominates. The revisors of the standard in 1884 were sincerely desirous of giving the Langshan a *real standard of excellence.* Seeing that the original standard confined the wing to one clipped up, which was certainly limiting its powers ; they passed over to the other extreme. We do not see that the carriage of the wing has been made a point of in the standard of any other breed of fowls, and we think it a pity it should be so in the case of the Langshan. We cannot agree with Mr. Harrison Weir that a heavily feathered bird would at once show its Cochin cross, we have never tried the experiment, but we think by mating with the more heavily feathered Langshans, that a bird of greatly increased leg feathering might be obtained and yet the bird would be strictly pure.

It is a sorry confession to make, but the first intimation that dawned on our mind of the leg feathers having been changed "from the *outer toes to the outer toe only*," in the standard was that of a bird of our own being pointed out to us in the show-pen as possessing a feather "round the corner." We think the character of the ground over which the birds run may probably influence the foot-feathers of those in Mr. Housman's yard. We have always been careful to obtain a clean hock joint, and have avoided exuberant leg-feathering. Before leaving this subject it will be right to remark on the leg-feathering generally. From time to time letters have appeared in the papers asking that Langshans should be bred for clean legs, but these writers have for the most part been only anonymous and certainly none of them appear to have had any real experience with, or value for, the Langshan. We do not believe the Langshan could be bred free from leg-

feathers, without the introduction of foreign blood, and then of course it could be no longer considered pure. We have had as many as thirteen importations, and these have all come with a neat amount of leg feathering with the exception of one hen, and we are not sure that she was entirely free. We have kept Langshans for many years, and are certain that in the vast number we have bred, not a dozen have come with clean legs. We cannot do better than quote what Captain Terry said on this subject in reply to an anonymous writer in 1886. "This leg feathering being a distinctive feature of the breed (not a made up one) why abolish it, instead of preserving the bird as handed down to us in its integrity? 'Waverer' goes on to say that 'the feathers on the legs are useless.' Granted! But is that a sufficient reason to abolish them. Because leg-feathers are useless, will breeders of Brahmas, Cochins, Sultans and Silkies be content to make away with them? Why, they have been breeding for leg-feathering more and more every year. Will breeders of Black Spanish make away with their white faces because they are useless? I think not, yet if they did there would be less disqualification for trimming, Unless the distinctive features of pure-bred fowls are rigidly retained, we might just as well at once abolish every true breed, and foster nothing but mongrels. As to 'Waverer's' remarks with regard to Plymouth Rocks. They have no point inasmuch as this is a very recently concocted breed, whereas the Langshan is neither of recent date nor made. Of course in manufacturing a breed, the builders would avoid leg feathering. Mr. Lewis Wright, 'Waverer' says, has stated that the Brahma was once clean-legged. If Mr. Lewis Wright was correct, his statement is adverse to 'Waverer's' argument, for the Brahma breeders were evidently dissatisfied with the clean legs and quickly exchanged them for feathered ones. Mr. Comyns quite appreciated the true bearing of a Langshan, when he said it should be more like a Game fowl than a Cochin; but that is not saying, the Langshan should be like a Game fowl. His remark no doubt was made to impress


A.F.Lydon

We think we have proved that the Langshan with feathered legs contributes well toward the filling of the egg basket, and it is certain that the feathers on the leg do not militate against its value as a table fowl. It is a mistake to suppose that these feathers render it slow and inactive; it does not raise its foot in the same manner as the Cochin, the latter *drags it along* with a deliberate movement, whereas the Langshan *lifts it foot*. On that account we have frequently heard it called a "high stepper." The feathers are no clog on its movements; there does not exist a more active bird than the Langshan. As for some chickens having turned out the very type of Cochins, Mr. Housman would be the very first to tell us that these birds formed *part* of a *whole* from which he had made the discovery that the Langshan was *not a Cochin*. When Mr. Wright asserts that breeders felt the necessity of breeding away from the original type most prevalent, and insinuates that that type was a Cochin he contradicts himself, for it was the medium-sized bird of which in 1878 he wrote himself as having been the "destined instrument" to discover a type, and when the illustration of Captain Terry's beautiful cock appeared in "*Poultry*" in 1886 Mr. Wright wrote of it, "I can only say it satisfies my idea completely, and is what I have endeavoured all through to advocate, and describe."

An illustration of Captain Terry's cock faces this page, and anyone who will take the points given as "Shape and Carriage," in the standard of excellence published in 1877, will see that it accurately describes this bird. As for the tall type of Langshan both Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Wright have declared it to be an ally of the Cochin, or of "*Gallus Giganteus*." The bird described in the orignal standard is a very perfect Langshan and one that comes in early, and is most useful. It is not because the Langshan Club desire a bird as long on the leg as possible, that its members would for a moment suggest in selecting this bird, they do it from a desire to breed *away* from Cochin characteristics; these latter the Langshan *never possessed*. The taller type of Langshan is one we prognosticated would have many admirers

In its hobble-de-hoy stage it is the more ungainly bird of the two, but when fully matured, a perfect specimen is elegance and grace personified; it is unique in form, and unlike any other breed, it certainly has not the *faintest* resemblance to the Cochin, its fine bone, thin skin, elastic movements, and general bearing, place the two breeds very far apart. These characteristics prevail in every type and are the crucial and only tests by which a breed should be tried. M. La Perre de Roo, in his "*Monographic des Races de Poules*," reminds us that the framework (squelette) of the Langshan is much lighter than that of the Cochin. Thus we have three essential points of difference; indeed the three that make up the parts of an animal, namely, *the skin*, *the flesh*, and *the bones*. Mr. Wright says, "the chicks often cause disappointment to the beginners; they frequently have such a lot of white in their first feathers, and are in other respects far from ornamental . . . . . the down is black on the back, under parts are uncertain blendings of white and light yellow, as in other black fowls. One likes a black fowl to be black naturally; and other things being equal it is desirable to select birds for breeding that have the fewest white chicken feathers." Now Mr. Wright describes the colours of the Langshan chicken correctly but he is mistaken in supposing it to be a disappointment to beginners, or that it is not ornamental; those who have bred Langshans for the first time have frequently expressed surprise that a black breed of fowls should produce such parti-colour chicken; but this is one of the paradoxes of nature, and when it has been explained to them these beginners have been perfectly satisfied. As for the chickens themselves, they have invariably described them as the "sweetest little things imaginable" *in their earlier stages*, and later on, as we have before stated, much depends on the care and treatment they receive. We notice this passage in Mr. Wright's account because we consider it somewhat involved. He says, "one likes a black fowl to be black naturally", if by this he means he would like the Langshan chicken to be black in its downy garb, he shows his

preference for a mongrel instead of the pure breed ; there is no choice in this matter, the shades on the Langshan chicken are *unevenly* distributed but *thoroughly defined* ; a dark chicken should at once be discarded, and anyone accustomed to a yard of pure birds would do this if they desired to keep their strain pure. For years after our first importation arrived we continued to receive a yearly consignment of Langshans from China. The chicken from these and our previous stock all that time hatched out brood after brood alike ; then came the visit of a pheasant to one of our runs, two or three of the hatches were influenced by this visit, but our previous experience enabled us at once to detect and trace out the mischief. When we removed to this place to all outward seeming our poultry had the world to themselves, but in the following spring we found some of the chicken much darker than usual, although not actually black, some of the legs also puzzled us. After a time we discovered that at a neighbouring farm some game chicken were kept, the distance was so great that it seemed almost incredible that our birds should have journeyed so far ; for they had to traverse three fields, and unless they made a considerable détour to pass through two quick set hedges. Last year the gentleman who owns these birds was in the neighbourhood, and paid us a visit, when he told us he had frequently seen some of our birds around his ricks fraternizing with his own. He very kindly consented to keep only Langshans at this place, and as we are to provide the cocks we shall of course look after our own interests. In all the crosses we have used we have found in the first cross the pullets take the plumage and appearance of the Langshan cock ; whilst the cockerels assume the feathers of the breed it is crossed with. For some years we kept Cuckoo Dorking hens ; these we found much wilder than the silver grey, and they invariably stole their nests, the hen would never allow us to examine the chicken, until they were nearly fledged, she would then bring them down into the yard with the other fowls. The cockerels invariably bore the cuckoo markings, even the

leg-feathering partaking of the same ; they had much of the Langshan carriage, but in general appearance they greatly resembled the Plymouth Rock, except that where the Plymouth Rock is yellow these were white, the legs were white with here and there a spot of black. They were admirable table fowls, coming in early and giving a vast amount of excellent breast meat. It is a cross we can highly recommend. Before leaving this subject we would remark whilst a dark chicken shows the unmistakeable signs of a cross, the cross may yet be lurking unperceived, for a cross will for generations throw chicken which in their downy garb have much the appearance of Langshans. In the "Langshan controversy," published some years since, one writer, speaking of the early Cochin, says :—

"Each type of Cochins had for a time its supporters, but before long all were bred to one fixed standard. By continually breeding from the birds most squarely built, with heaviest leg feathers, these points became at length firmly fixed in the breed."

Another writer, evidently a Cochin breeder, gives us the result of this selective breeding. He writes :—

"I also know that most of our Cochins are *not* good layers, neither the quantity or the quality of eggs having been the consideration of British Cochin fanciers, *the fruit of the egg* has been the 'delicious' portion. We can always get mongrels to supply us with eggs, whilst the more profitable experiments of poultry culture are progressing. A large yield of eggs is a boon and a useful return to those who keep poultry with that end only in view, and in the early Cochin days *they* also contributed to the larder an abundant supply of delicious eggs, but, unfortunately, the exhibitions made the birds in a great measure greatly impair their fertility. By in-breeding solely for feather the constitution naturally gives way somewhere, and the source of supply and vital energy becomes somewhat enfeebled, and thus the fancier invariably finds that in the endeavour to realise his own, or to work up to a fixed ideal object, he rarely ever attains it excepting at a sacrifice, having to take with what he wants some of its accompanying ills and drawbacks. For instance, in obtaining exclusive leg-feathering, deep breast, and heavy stern, we also must reckon upon the accompanying susceptibility to scaly leg, enlarged crop, and consequent indigestion, 'prolapsus,' or relaxed vital power. I name these few of the many ills to which poultry are subject in order to show a reason for the impaired physical power of the British-bred Cochin as a layer."

Wise old Æsop must surely have had the modern fancier in his mind's eye, when he gave us the fable of the "Goose that laid the Golden Eggs," only the man who owned the goose seemed to have missed of his "delicious portion."

This writer describes the early Cochins, of which he seems to have a distinct remembrance, as "tall, leggy, bony birds, some fluffy feathered, the majority ordinary big straddling cocks," &c. Now this description agrees very much with one given us of a Shanghai bird "tall, gaunt and bony, reminding one of a young Ostrich, only not swift but phlegmatic, and heavy in its movements." When one considers that out of this tall, leggy bird, the British fancier has manipulated the handsome and stately Cochin of the present day he may well be proud of his work, and it is only when he insists on allying this "creation" of his with the Langshan that we take exception to it.

Some years ago a lady visiting England from China showed us some buff feathers of a bird she supposed to be the original "Shanghai."

When we contemplated this "History," we wrote to ask our friend if she could procure us the photograph of a Buff Cochin Cock. In her reply she told us she had not seen any for a considerable period, but on receiving our letter had gone into the markets time after time, in the hope of securing one for our purpose, but with no avail. The market people told her they had found it of no use to bring them in as the foreigners would not buy, that all they sold now was a cross with the old breed and a cross with the Langshan, and a smaller bird for which there seemed no name; they also professed to have some Langshans, but these our friend did not think could be depended upon. The market people told her, if she desired any of the old sort, she would have to send up country for them. Our friend in the Imperial Service kindly undertook to do this, but we fear without success, for some months have elapsed, and no bird has as yet put in an appearance. The writer whose remarks on the Langshan and Cochin we have quoted, continues :—

"The Langshan has a large wing; so had the Cochin when it first reached our shores, but it was a point against him, considered as incompatible with his grave features and the desired object, so his pinions have in the course of say thirty years been reduced, and he has been also made to tuck them up into the fluff. The tail also has been reduced to meet the same views, and in the same manner. Langshans

have full flowing tails; so also had the Cochins when first known to us, but it was decreed they should be small, and, alas! how difficult it is, after all our experiments, to maintain these artificial points. Notwithstanding all our efforts, the black leg *will* come in black poultry. The wings and tail, too, will speedily revert to nature without our constant care and judgment, as too many of our weedy Cochins so often sadly prove."

Darwin, in his "*Animals and Plants under Domestication*," gives the following account of the Cochin. "Cochin or Shanghai Breed. Size great; wing feathers short, arched, much hidden in the soft downy plumage; barely capable of flight, tail short, generally formed of sixteen feathers, developed at a late period in the young males; legs thick feathered; spurs short, thick, nail of middle toe flat and broad; an additional toe not rarely developed; skin yellowish. Comb and wattle well developed. Skull with deep medial furrow; occipital foramen, sub-triangular vertically elongated. Voice peculiar. Eggs rough, buff-coloured. Disposition extremely quiet. Of Chinese origin." Very few of us would consider ourselves sufficiently advanced to adopt Mr. Darwin's views as a whole, but no one can deny that he was thoroughly genuine, and that he was a seeker after knowledge of the higher sort, and also that he went the best way to obtain it, namely, by asking information of those whose practical experience enabled them to give it. It is quite possible Mr. Darwin had no intimate personal knowledge of the Cochin, but he certainly obtained it from those who had; probably of Mr. Tegetmeier whose name is frequently mentioned in this work. (This we would add is only surmise.)

It will be seen that Darwin's account of the Cochin does not agree with the writer we have quoted. He says, "the wing feathers are short and barely capable of flight." The wing of the Langshan is utterly opposed to this: its wing is large, and capable of considerable flight. The birds staged in our orchard always attempt to roost in the trees in considerable numbers, and the attendant has night after night to go down with a long pole in order to dislodge them, for within view of our place is a resort for foxes. Some of our young birds are kept in wire runs, and when

the door is opened to give them a wider range, they invariably take a glad flight of some feet into the air with a whirr! whirr! just like wild birds. Mr. Darwin says "the spurs of the Cochin are short, and thick;" the spurs of the Langshans, as age advances, attain an immense length, and are exceedingly pointed. He says, "the nail of the middle toe of the Cochin is flat and broad, an additional toe not rarely developed." The middle toe of the Langshan is not flat and broad, and from the commencement of our keeping Langshans in 1872 up to the present date, 1889, we have never had a single instance of a five-clawed Langshan. The progress of the Langshan was in the first instance retarded by those who used it as a cross with the Black Cochin, and then declared it to be a "weed from the Black Cochin breeder's yard." A short time since a friend brought us the catalogue of poultry kept by a gentleman, who sells both eggs and birds of various breeds. Under the heading "Langshans," he has, "the demand for this breed is so great that we find it necessary to keep some specimens; they are certainly excellent table-fowls; some people consider them a distinct breed from the Cochin but we ourselves can see but a *very slight line of difference, if any.*" Now in 1876 a writer pointed out that weedy Black Cochins had done duty for Langshans (that is to say since 1872) in their own classes, and Black Cochin breeders advertise and sell their birds as birds of the Langshan type, and as these are purchased as Langshans, whatever their origin may have been, such birds will soon be wanting in those peculiarities Langshan admirers claim for their breed." In 1880 a French gentleman wrote to ask us to sell him some Langshans. He told us he had already kept the breed for a couple of seasons, and desired to renew his stock. We were from home when the letter arrived, and it did not receive an immediate reply. When we at length wrote, our correspondent told us he had been so anxious to mate his birds that he had unfortunately purchased some Langshans advertised by a Belgian dealer, that the birds were not pure but half bred Cochins; he added "this dealer tells me he purchased them of an English

Langshan breeder." On this we wrote to ask him to discover the name of the English Langshan breeder from whom the birds had been procured. This he did, and sent us also the printed circular of the Belgian dealer; the name of the gentleman from whom the birds were procured was that of our friend *who sees so slight a line of difference between the Langshan and the Cochin!* Two or three years ago a Langshan breeder wrote to us complaining that a judge who is held in high repute should have pronounced the Langshan classes at a show of some importance to have been a "mere lottery." On looking over the catalogue of the show, we felt certain the judge had only stated what was true, for there were names in that list that had been reported to us over and over again as keeping impure stock; indeed several of our correspondents had told us they had heard a Black Cochin breeder boast of having sold Black Cochins to mate with the Langshans of the show-pen. Now this was as subtle a mixture as Mr. Cook's Orpingtons; for the Black Cochin had already partaken of the Langshan, and this re-mating could only prove a puzzle to the judges and the awards *a mere lottery.* The only mistake the judge made was in supposing this *lottery* was *due to the Langshan.* It was really caused by the pure Langshan being staged side by side with this *cunningly devised mongrel.* It must be borne in mind that the judge was already on the look out for Cochin points. An American gentleman who had kept Langshans for a considerable time purchased some eggs of us in 1885 and had them hatched out in England; when nearly arrived at maturity he took them to America, and with them also a pullet he had purchased of another strain; he described it as a fine bird, but somewhat coarse in appearance; he said *it fairly puzzled him, an old Langshan breeder.* On arriving in America he took the bird home with the others he had hatched in England, and placed them all without saying a word before his family who were well acquainted with the pure Langshan, and they, as he described it, "at once spotted out the mysterious stranger, and, its good looks notwithstanding, it was sacrificed for

the table." Now if those who have had long practical experience with the Langshan find such a cross puzzling, what must it be to those who have no practical knowledge? Mr. Wright has charged those who have objected to the sort of bird we have described as influenced by interested motives and narrow views. This is a charge we distinctly repudiate for ourselves and those who have worked with us. Many who commenced with pure stock, have used their utmost endeavour to keep it pure. Again, there are those who have been deceived into purchasing birds where the vendor *had made a very slight line between* the Langshan and the Cochin; but who, as soon as they discovered their mistake, at once set about rectifying it. Others, again, like the Honorary Secretary of the Club (Mr. Wallis) are in the possession of pure imported stock. Our own objection to this half-bred bird was two-fold. In the first place it was not pure, and in the next, we had in most instances been the means of getting up the classes and procuring the prizes, and as these latter had always been destined for pure stock, it defeated our object. We have rarely frequented poultry shows; and for the most part have learnt what was going on from other Langshan breeders; these have frequently been non-exhibitors, but they have visited the shows, and examined the birds.—*Another* means we have had of drawing a fair and just conclusion, *is the letters* that from time to time have appeared in the papers from those who keep Langshans, but consider them "coarse and inferior table fowls." As a leaf will tell you which way the wind blows, these letters at once convinced us that the writers were not in the possession of pure stock, and confirmed our previous information. We have been in correspondence with Langshan breeders all over the world. Many of these have never had a bird or egg direct from us; our foreign correspondents have frequently merely written to give us a description of the Langshans in their possession in order to learn from us whether they resembled our own. Through all these years the Langshan although sorely persecuted has never been without its witness. In 1878 Mr. R. Fletcher Housman

commenced as a Langshan breeder, and he has always aimed at keeping his stock pure ; we do not mention him as being peculiar in this respect, for many another breeder has done this also, but we believe the birds in Mr. R. F. Housman's yard led to one of the most valuable conquests the Langshan has ever yet made. Mr. William Housman had naturally many opportunities of observing the Langshans in his brother's yard, but it was not until they had been in the possession of the latter a considerable time that he decided on keeping Langshans himself. It is now some years since he began to cultivate them, and they have inspired many of the most interesting poultry articles that have appeared in "*Live Stock Journal*." Mr. Housman's testimony is all the more valuable because he writes from a thorough knowledge of his subject. He keeps his poultry merely for his own private use, and therefore is not influenced by the heated arena where cups and prizes prevail. He has had vast experience, and writes favourably and kindly of other breeds of poultry, yet he now, as far as we understand, keeps only Langshans, and if the breed does not rank first with him on the list of all round fowls, it keeps so very even a line with the first, that it has won his highest enconiums.

Another equally important addition to our ranks is Mr. G. Mander Allender, of the Aylesbury Dairy Company. In January, 1887, Mr Allender sent an account of the poultry kept on the Company's farm at Horsham to "*Live Stock Journal*." He gave the highest place as a generally useful fowl to the Langshan, he said they kept them in larger numbers because they found them on the whole more profitable than any other breed of fowls ; he pointed out that "although the Langshan did not lay a large egg, it gave one that was very acceptable, its beautiful and varied tints rendering it an ornament to the breakfast table." He also added the testimony given by Mr. Housman and many others, that although there are many breeds that supply an equal average of eggs, the Langshan has the super-added value of giving them continuously in the winter when other breeds are resting. This

also is what M. V. La Perre de Roo says, "Ponte.—merveilleuse surtout en hiver quand toutes nos poules se reposent."

Anyone passing the Aylesbury Dairy Company's farm at Horsham, or visiting their business premises in London, would at once appreciate the value of Mr. Allender's good opinion, and his capability of forming a judgment. Besides its intrinsic value as a pure breed, the Langshan makes an excellent cross—we have only tried the Dorking and Game, both of which we have proved to be first-rate. The cross-bred hen tints her eggs, and inherits the laying powers of the Langshan to a great extent. The Langshan has also proved useful in the manufacture of other breeds of considerable value—we will only instance the Orpington, because it has been under recent discussion. Mr. Cook visited our yard in January, 1877, when he told us the more he saw of the Langshan the more valuable he had proved it to be; he had at that time commenced making his Orpingtons, and we supplied him with some birds as nearly bare of leg feather as we could find for his purpose. Mr. Cook has been very open in his statements regarding the Orpington; we know exactly how the breed has been made. When the Orpington Club was instituted they did us the honour to invite us to become President, an honour we were, however, obliged to decline. We see Mr. Cook gives 300 eggs as the average lay of the Orpington, and 240 as that of the Langshan; we are not inclined to dispute the number accorded to the Langshan; the breed has now been with us 17 years, and any breed that would after such a period furnish so good a record certainly deserves well of its possessor and the community at large. We have never had the opportunity of numbering the eggs of any particular hen during the whole year —a pullet we know of laid 146 eggs without a *single intermission.* Our hens commence almost invariably to lay whilst still cooped with their chickens—it is a common thing to see the chickens grouped around their mother waiting for the event. Very many of the hens will continue to foster their chickens for a long time, giving them this divided attention. This spring we have had an

autumn-hatched pullet on the lawn ; she commenced to lay on the 2nd of April, and continued to do so day after day until the first week in May ; she then moved her quarters and got mixed up with some hens, but these having been sent away we find her laying again every day—what she did in the interval we cannot say. Again, a hen with her brood of chicks was cooped on the lawn ; she commenced to lay about the same time, also day after day, at length she began to dispute the food with her chickens, and showed other signs of having had enough of them, and was sent to the right about, so no further record could be kept. Whilst we are on the subject we would suggest that a well turned up border, a good stretch of lawn, and a gravel path, form a paradise for young chickens ; they are, of course, bad gardeners, but they really do no great harm until it is time to put the bedding plants out! We see the great resemblance borne by the Orpington to the Langshan frequently commented upon, and we are surprised that no practical breeder has sought out the cause for this. In 1882 Mr. Tegetmeier suggested that the Langshan was a made breed, on the same lines as the Plymouth Rock. We felt sure he must have seen something that had given him this idea, and since that time the Plymouth Rock has received our particular attention, and we are convinced that this breed at some time or other had Langshan introduced into it.

The Americans say the Java was used, but any Langshan breeder seeing the Java would at once know that there was Langshan in it. The reason that Mr. Cook's bird bears so strong a resemblance to the Langshan is that he has made a sort of double use of that breed in its composition, had he taken the Crêve or La Flèche the likeness would most probably not have been so striking, but in a recently made breed no doubt the Langshan would declare itself prominently. It has frequently vexed us to find people who have had no practical experience with the true Langshan herding it with the made breeds that have become popular (no doubt deservedly so), but they are after all only made

breeds, and will certainly bear the stamp of newness so long as they require any separate mating or *dodging* to achieve a pair. We know of course that whatever breed is kept, it is important to present a well matched pair in the show pen, and for the matter of that in the breeding pen also, but this is quite a different affair to having a brood to select from, where one bird is black and another speckled, and where certain birds have to be suppressed because they *hark back to the wrong ancestor.* The bird that breeds true, and can point to a well attested pedigree, should certainly take the precedence, especially one that has proved itself of such intrinsic value as the Langshan. What matters it that we have known it but for comparatively few years, the Chinese say it was always in its present habitat, and the breed itself goes far to prove this in that it has, ever since it came into our possession 17 years ago, always come true *to points of breed.*

We were surprised to find the following passage in a recent letter of Mr. Cook's. In speaking of the Langshan in connection with the other breeds used in the composition of his Orpingtons, he says, "The Langshans, another good breed, are splendid layers and nice on the table, with good quality flesh, but their eggs are small. Let not those who keep these breeds, think I wish in any way to speak against them. Far from it; I merely wish to point out where they can be improved." Now it has not yet been "proved" that the Orpington is a better bird than the Langshan. Of course there are Langshans and Langshans, and we are speaking of well selected birds from a pure stock; if Mr. Cook's aim is to "improve" the Langshan into the Orpington, we put our veto upon it, but perhaps we are mistaken and have not taken his meaning aright. We have never found the Langshan sport rose-combed birds, neither has Mr. Wallis, who has also imported stock. Mr. Housman writes: "Of the genuine Langshan (and genuine Langshans are plentiful, I say nothing about spurious Langshans, which are also plentiful), it is impossible to say with truth that there is any commingling of

European and Chinese blood, and I have not yet seen the genuine Langshan in which I could recognise a trace of any old European type, wide as I have always found the difference between the Langshan and other Asiatic types of the heavier sort, with which we are familiar. Langshans are certainly bred in this country as pure as imported from North China, so if there is in them any commingling with old European types the intermixture of old European blood must have been effected by the North Celestials themselves. This I have never seen suggested. The made up rubbish, composed of Asiatic and European breeds crossed, and sometimes passed off as Langshans, no Langshan breeder would look at for half a minute." We would impress upon our readers that we have not a word to say against Mr. Cook's Orpingtons; the open manner in which he has declared the breed commends itself entirely to our approval. It has been frequently pointed out to us that Langshans of both sexes often retain their vigour, and enjoy what may be termed a green old age. A gentleman who visited our yards a week or two since remarked on this—he resides in a London suburb, and keeps a very limited number of fowls—he was telling us that a hen in his possession, that could not be less than six years old, continued to give a large supply of eggs. Mr. Housman, in an article in "*Live Stock Journal*" on "Fowls in Winter," says: "Whenever I find an old hen beating all the pullets, or even able to keep pace with them in laying, I cannot destroy so faithful an old servant. I have now a Langshan hen laying freely in her sixth year of laying, and but for a few days at a time she has scarcely ever stopped, except to hatch a brood every year, since she first began. Last autumn she did not perform her moult at once, but began to get a few new feathers in October, and has gone on gradually exchanging her old for new feathers, which are not yet at full growth. When she means to take a holiday I don't know, but I suppose she will take it out in hatching by and by. How could anyone find it in his heart to drag her off the nest and condemn her to the stew-pot?"

The feathers are another useful as well as ornamental point in the Langshan. The breed is very popular in France, and last year, and the year before, a great many of the ladies' hats purchased in Paris were adorned with the plumes of the Langshan cock, and we feel sure the soft body feathers of both cocks and hens could be well utilised for quilts and pillows, for they are soft and light as down.

Before concluding this chapter we would earnestly appeal to the members of the club and Langshan breeders generally not to groove in too closely for a standard. Not to lose sight of the useful and intrinsic qualities of the breed in order to obtain feather and points of ideal perfection. We have the example before us of what ship-wreck in this respect has been made of many another variety of poultry. We have read what Cochin breeders tell us of the present Cochin. We scarcely think it fair to take the Cochin as a case in point, for from all accounts it never had any good table properties to lose, and although it seems to have been a good winter layer, it has not been urged that its average yield of eggs exceeded that of other breeds, but it came to us as a tall-ranging, bony, ungainly bird, and has been converted into a stately breed with handsome plumage. Of its economic qualities we do not speak from our own experience but from hearsay Grooving over closely for a standard reminds one of a Dutch garden, it is nature despoiled of almost every vestige of grace. We know there must be standards, or the judges would have no guide for their awards and breeders no rules to go by, but we think (especially in the case of a breed situated as the Langshan has been) birds of doubtful purity should be ignored. Richness of plumage should not condone coarse skin and heavy bone. Careless breeding no doubt should not be passed over, for those who run in a race should aim at the highest perfection, and the bird that comes nearest to this should win the prize. We are well content with the standard as a whole, but think thin skin and fine bone should take its place, at any rate on an equality with richness of colour. It is easy for a bird that has no sheen in itself to come out with great lustre in a cross like "the Jackdaw

in borrowed feathers." We think against coarse skin and bone, there should be a heavy mark in "deductions." A mark that would amount to extermination; for exhibitors would cease to breed birds that were passed over in the prize list.

We have found a great difference in the habits of Langshans that roost in the out-places near home, and those kept in the orchard. As a rule the former are remarkably gentle, they will allow you to stroke their feathers as they sit on their nests; to take the egg from under them; and will follow you and your feeding basket with importunity, accepting food from your hand; whereas those reared in the orchard are shy and wild, they rush from the food scattered, as if it were so many stones cast at them instead of dainty morsels intended for their refection, and it is not until they see your receding form well in the distance that they come forward to partake. Here the pullet seeks some sequestered spot to deposit her egg. We found many a nest in the long grass under the apple trees last year; and those who have kept Langshans will know how beautiful the varied tints looked peeping out from the green herbage. We have always tried to prevent the birds from sitting in the open on account of our neighbour Master Reynard, although we know of no better or more successful mode of hatching than that which nature seems to suggest. This year some of our birds have stolen a march on us, one hen that had been missed for a considerable time reappeared a day or two since with a brood of ten chickens, and we find another sitting with fifteen eggs under her.

We have said in our description of the chick that the shades of which its down is composed are by no means distributed according to rule, "in some the light predominate, and in others the dark." It has again quite recently been brought to our notice that this desire on our part for strict accuracy might tend to mislead those who have no practical knowledge of the Langshan. We notice in a contemporary an Enquirer writes: "I have bought some Langshan chicks this afternoon, and paid rather a good price, but they seem to be different colours—some

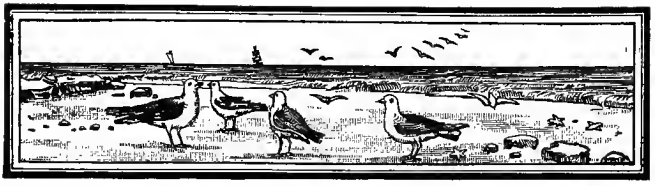
are half white and half black, and others are a slaty colour, while others are all black." This enquiry elicits the following reply: "Black chicks do vary a great deal in colour, and Langshans in particular showing, in my opinion, a great deal of mixture in the breed itself." The uneven distribution of colour mentioned by us would scarcely be appreciated by a stranger; our newly hatched chickens are as *true to their colours as a regiment of soldiers.* They not only are pure but their varied tints have a *oneness* that would commend itself to the eyes of any beholder as pure. By the time the chicken are a month old they would begin to show their individuality, and vary a little, but *no chicken with black down was ever a pure Langshan,* and no breed ever came purer than the Langshan does. I repeat that from 1872 to the present time our broods have come over and over again precisely the same, and we can fearlessly appeal to all who have had birds or eggs of us in all parts of the world to confirm what we say. We are certain no purer or more distinct breed was ever introduced to the poultry loving community.

It is probable those of our readers who are acquainted with other varieties of poultry may smile at what we have written of the habits *peculiar* to the Langshan; many of these may probably be shared by other breeds. Our practical experience, we frankly admit, has for the most part been limited to the Langshan and a few Dorking hens—of other breeds our knowledge has been obtained by the careful study of books. Of the Langshan we have given a true and faithful account. We have just (July 12th, 1889), since our book was in the publisher's hands, received a letter from a correspondent who is a "fancier" of long standing both in theory and practice. As what he writes is of interest at the present stage, we give an extract from his letter:—

"Now about those White Langshans. I gave a friend some eggs from birds which came from you, and he in process of time thought 'fresh blood' would do his stock good. Accordingly he bought a cockerel, 'Langshan,' through '*Bazaar*,' but I at once detected the tawny tint on legs, and jaundiced shade about the face, which

showed the Cochin taint. My friend is not a fancier, and he was content to keep his new purchase, and the result was that from this cross he produced a lot of pure white birds, legs pinkish, and *no taint* of yellow being *apparent*. I advised him to separate these white birds and try if they would breed true to feather; this they did not at first, but by selective breeding they eventually came tolerably true, although a few mottled feathers would spoil an otherwise perfect specimen. I have no doubt that the progenitor of these birds was a cross between the Langshan and the White Cochin—these facts open up a wide field for discussion, in the course of which must always be remembered the time-honoured poultry breeding maxim, that 'the male gives the feather, and the female the form.'"

As white is said to be the sport of black, a thoroughly pure white Langshan is by no means an impossible bird, but in their own country they are as uncommon as the "white elephant." Our China correspondents have heard of—but never seen—this *rara avis*



HOW WE FEED THE LANGSHANS.

WE have frequently been asked how we feed our Langshans. To this we would reply, just as other breeds are fed. But as some of our readers may be new to poultry keeping, we give a list of the food used: Hard boiled eggs with the shells chopped very fine and a few bread crumbs added is excellent as a first food—we do not always give the egg, but frequently substitute bread that has been soaked in new milk. They will not require food for twenty-four hours after emerging from the shell, as their last performance whilst struggling to release themselves is the absorbing of the yolk. Chicken groats alternated with Spratt's poultry meal, the latter mixed with equal portions of sharps and oatmeal, is good. Chicken, and full-grown birds also, are particularly fond of buckwheat, either softened in water or milk ; the latter is, of course, the most nourishing. Dari may be used in turn with other grain. Maize should be used most sparingly, as it is apt to produce internal fat. Buckwheat, barley and wheat we get from a neighbour, but with buckwheat, chicken groats, hempseed (which helps them to feather, and is good for birds in moult) we have for

years been supplied by the Poultry Food Company. We find the grain reasonable and good, and should your order be of sufficient importance they pay the carriage to the nearest railway station. They, moreover, do not require their sacks returned—these latter are often a boon to poultry keepers as helps to shelter from the sun, rain and cold. We have heard that poultry in China is chiefly fed on a coarse kind of rice; this is not a nourishing food, but is one greatly enjoyed by birds of all ages. A sick fowl will be tempted by a little rice when all other foods fail. We give it raw, as milk rice puddings, or cooked in the liquor in which any kind of meat has been boiled—a ham, for instance. Those who give meat to their chicken could use the boilings in this way. The boiled rice we generally mix with crammings and oatmeal, but the puddings are a dainty dish always given separate.

Another food we must not omit to mention is Liverine. It was recommended to us last autumn, and we have found it excellent. It is a great favourite with all animals—cows, horses, dogs, cats, birds of the air, besides poultry, Quite a flight of sparrows, robins, starlings, etc., put in an appearance as soon as any is thrown down for the chicken; these are always ready enough to help themselves, but they seem to flock from all quarters at the very scent of this food. We mix it with equal portions of two other meals. In a useful little work, by Mr. W. Cook, young nettles cut short, and boiled, and the liquid used to mix with soft food, are recommended, also dandelion; we used the leaves of the latter boiled, as recommended for the nettles, last season with good effect. Birds that have to be bred up for the shows would certainly benefit from this treatment, as high feeding is apt to clog the liver, and the dandelion would correct this. All birds should be plentifully supplied with green food, such as lettuces, cabbages, clivers that at this season may be gathered from the hedges in abundance. When they can get it our birds greatly enjoy a mangold—we have frequently seen one completely hollowed out by the fowls. To those who desire

to keep poultry in large numbers we would recommend a little work published by the "Avant Tout" Poultry Farming Association, Yattendon, Berks. It is full of useful and practical information. The following letter, written by Mr. Philip Muirhead, of Helensburgh, to "*Bazaar and Mart*," as long ago as 1879, gives an account of how he kept his poultry under somewhat difficult circumstances. We think it may interest some of our town readers :—

"THE LANGSHAN FOWL.

"SIR,—I notice that with many of your contemporaries who treat of poultry, you are 'down' on the Langshan fowl. Do you not think it a pity that the breeding a bird, whose qualities among poultry are akin to those of the shorthorns among cattle should be condemned instead of encouraged. Like the shorthorns, which are unsurpassed for the butchers, and almost unequalled for the dairy, so the Langshans are for the table and egg-basket.

"Previous to the introduction of the Langshans, black Cochins were a rarity ; since their appearance the prepotency of their metallic plumage has been used to vastly increase the black Cochin by simply crossing with the buff, when nine-tenths of the chickens thrown come right, and the old rusty black bird formerly shown has entirely disappeared. Cochin breeders, however, do not acknowledge this indebtedness, but all and sundry condemn the Langshan.

"Having had some experience of the Langshan, perhaps a few facts may prove useful to those who wish to keep profitable birds, or to try poultry-farming.

"In 1876 I received some eggs, and in 1877 reared my own birds from eggs laid by pullets hatched the previous July. In the winter of 1878, having to go to London, I disposed of all my stock, except a few pullets and a cockerel of that year, which I took with me for the sake of the eggs. As the pullets stopped laying in the spring, I killed off all but a cock and hen to take north again. The poulterer in London returning a pair dressed for the table, sent his compliments, desiring to know what breed they were, as, during an experience of between twenty and thirty years, he never had had such a fine pair through his hands ! This was after the exhaustion of a winter season's laying, and without extra feeding. Their house was simply a sloped board in the angle between two walls quite open on the fourth side. The hen I brought back with me in July is laying now six days a week with the same housing, and in equally severe weather. She laid all July and August, brought out a brood in September, and began again to lay in November. I have never lost a chick or fowl of the Langshan breed from disease. At present I have a brood of nine chicks hatched on the 27th of October, and doing as well as could be wished ; their home is an open packing-case, with sifted ashes for a floor. I have tried Cochin, Brahma, Spanish, La Fleche, and Crève, and in all cases disease was more or less fatal. The Langshans will lay, hatch, and bring up in any weather, with ordinary care, and, except when moulting, the birds are always fit to kill, being plump with plenty of breast meat. It is a breed, too, that, like the shorthorn, stamps its characteristics on others to a large extent. An acquaintance to whom I gave some Spanish eggs

crossed Langshan two seasons ago, said he never had such birds; they are laying through this winter steadily, when all his other birds (Houdan, Dorking, Partridge Cochin, and Barndoor) have left off for weeks.

"Some patridge-Cochin hens put to the Langshan cock threw nine out of ten chicks with black plumage and black legs, and a last year's pullet of this cross put to a Houdan cock threw a majority of black chicks with feathered legs, two had beards, one the fifth toe. I saw the breeder of these last week, and both the first cross with the patridge-Cochin and the second cross, which are this year's pullets, are much improved in their laying qualities; that is to say, they are laying at present, in very severe weather, when neither the patridge-Cochins or the Houdans are laying, from which, on one side, the hens and pullets are descended.

"It may be useful to add that the chicks from birth are fed on scalded hominy, mixed with oatmeal, and enough thirds added to make the mixture short and crumbly In winter I add Indian corn meal."

CATS, RATS, AND POULTRY.

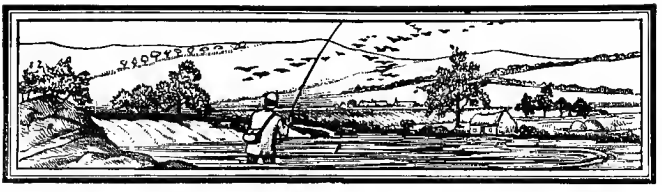
AN animal often decried as the pest and enemy of the poultry yard we have found a most useful friend—we mean the cat. We brought a staff of three to this place, for the house had been long unoccupied, and a granery was close at hand. We had heard before we took possession that rats were frequently to be seen careering across the lawn. We found a solitary cat in the kitchen garden; this poor creature had made the night hideous with her cries, and we were told, by way of comfort, that a gun was ready primed to put an end to her existence! We, however, begged hard for a respite, and pussy lives on. She fought shy of us at first, rushing wildly off whenever anyone appeared in sight, but a little milk and other delicacies soon conquered her fears. Her appearance from the first won her the name of Mrs. Ugly; but on the principle of "handsome is that handsome does" she ought really to be considered "beautiful for ever." She is a wonderful rat catcher, and a devoted friend of the family. Fortunately for us no chicken had been kept on the place before our coming here, at least not in her time, so she had not learnt the excellent flavour of a young Langshan. She follows us from garden to orchard, stops when we stop, shares the food with the chicken, but never

attempts to molest them ; we should add her cries at night have entirely ceased.

Last spring, on going into the orchard, our man said, "You will scarcely guess what is in that coop," pointing to a long bamboo cage in which some hens had their roosting place, "the old cat has a lot of kittens there ; I don't know how she will make out with the hens." In a day or two we found a broody hen had taken the kittens under her wing and absolutely refused to give them up to their lawful mother, the consequence, of course, was they all died. We gave the broody hen some eggs on the very same spot, she hatched them out, and the cat hovered around the place still. We often saw the chicken wandering far out of sight of their mother, the quivering of the long grass showing they were busy pecking about under it. The cat was prowling near, but never attempted to touch them. In due time Mrs. Pussy had her next batch of kittens—on this occasion it was under a small stack of wood close by. We could not undertake to say what feasts were spread beneath the shelter of this retreat ; we have seen Mrs. Ugly struggling towards it weighed down with a huge rat, or it might have been a young rabbit, but never a chicken graced that board, for we knew our numbers, and not one failed throughout the whole summer.

Should this meet the eye of the "mighty hunter" whose gun was so kindly placed at our disposal, we know he will remember that faithful servants are valuable, and deserve to have great store set by them.

Besides this, rabbits old and young abound in these parts, and a slight propensity for poaching could scarcely thin their numbers, whilst the large tribute paid in rats might well atone for such an offence. If an animal only receives rough words—if a cap, a stone, or other missile always greets its appearance—what can one expect in return? But let the law of kindness prevail, and we feel sure cats will be found capable of faithful attachments and true gratitude.



OPPOSITION OF INTERESTED FANCIERS.

(REPRINTED FROM FIRST EDITION.)

IN order to make clear the nature of the opposition with which our birds were met when first introduced to the "fancy," it will be necessary to explain that, previous to the importations of Langshans, a mongrel black bird had been manufactured by some cross with the Cochin. These birds were spoken of by several poultry-writers, of whom Mrs. Elizabeth Watts is the earliest and most reliable, as the result of a "sport" from the Cochin proper. These mongrels were called Black Cochins, and they possessed the yellow legs, jaundiced face and ear-lobes, with skins to match, and that tawny dry flesh which is so essentially a characteristic of the Cochin. All attempts to popularise these made-up birds failed, in consequence of their propensity to "throw back," and so it happened that they fell into disfavour, being retained only by those men who used them as improvers in the manufacture of black-breasted birds of kindred varieties. From time to time one finds amongst old poultry literature expressions of regret that a Black Cochin cock has never been seen. "Hens there are," one writer says, "of the true Cochin type, but," he adds, "where to get a cock is the problem which no one appears able to solve." This was the

state of affairs up to the beginning of 1872, when Major Croad's birds arrived. After the appearance of these Langshans in 1872, Black Cochin fanciers began to bestir themselves, and to write exultingly of their prospects. A Cup was procured for the next Crystal Palace Show, but the first Black Cochin class we have on record was that held at Oxford in 1873. Sufficient time having been given to rear the first cross, we there found the Black Cochin had been metamorphosed by an infusion of Langshan blood. They had become black-legged, were greatly improved in colour, had developed larger combs and longer tails, although the sickle-feathers were in many instances missing, and no efforts had been spared to make the birds as like Cochins as possible. Upon reference to a published criticism of this class in the "*Poultry Review*," we find the reporter said: "The class was disappointing. There was great room for improvement. The birds were backward, stilty, and far behind what they must be." Since then the owners of these birds have consistently devoted themselves to the task of breeding down to the Cochin type by eliminating, as far as possible, the Langshan characteristics, and they have the astounding impudence not only to repudiate the alliance, but also to assert that their birds are Black Cochins. That these cross-bred birds are good in their way we are free to admit, but the Langshan, with its fine bone, delicate white juicy flesh, and clear, transparent, white skin, had nothing to gain and everything to lose by the cross with a breed of birds so utterly deficient of all culinary merits as the Cochin.

We breeders of the pure stock have persistently refused to sacrifice the splendid table properties of our birds in order to develop those montrous cushions, saddles, thighs, and "starns," which are the peculiar characteristics of the Cochin, to say nothing of the keel-shaped breast denuded of flesh in order to swell the extravagant proportions of the worthless parts above referred to. That those persons who have taught themselves to

look upon these distorted Cochin monstrosities as ideals of poultry beauty should be alarmed to find rival birds of equal bulk possessing the very highest qualities of flesh and laying properties is quite intelligible to everyone, but for these persons to say to us, "You must make your birds like ours, and call them by the same name," was, to say the very least, a remarkably cool proceeding. These breeders of mongrels have found no member of their fraternity bold enough either to gainsay these plain facts or to attempt a refutation of our arguments; and the whole sum and substance of their defence—if such it can be called—has been limited to a persistently repeated assertion that "practically" Langshans and Black Cochins were alike. In the face of such notorious facts as those recorded herein, this impudent claim scarcely deserves serious treatment at our hands, although it has answered the purpose of those who put it forward, and formed a pretext to justify their calling their birds Langshans, exhibiting them as such, and selling their produce as the genuine article when it suited their purpose. One Black Cochin fancier, who showed his birds in the Langshan class at the Crystal Palace Show in 1876, candidly stated to us that his birds contained a large admixture of Langshan blood, and he quite admitted that the peculiar metallic sheen upon the feathers testified to its presence, not only in his but in other birds which came from the yards of other well-known Black Cochin fanciers. There was a suggestion made at this show that we should abandon our crusade against these mongrels, call our birds Black Cochins, and breed down to the Cochin standard: and the plea in favour of this course being adopted was certainly amusing The owners of these made-up specimens said, "Our birds are very much like yours, and so long as we hold together and stick to the name of Black Cochin, you will never succeed in getting your birds classed as a distinct species." Our answer was. "Don't prophesy before you see; we are not disheartened yet. The time may come when our supporters will be stronger and better organised than the Black Cochin fraternity, and when that

time arrives the Langshan cause will triumph in spite of all the combinations of ignorance, prejudice, and interests which have hitherto prevailed against it." My prediction was realised within six months of its utterance, for the Langshan Club had become a powerful reality, boasting as it did a large number of members, who were breeders of our birds, and who subscribed together a substantial annual sum for the purpose of obtaining that foremost place for the Langshan in the ranks of domestic poultry to which its many great intrinsic merits so fully entitled it. We object to the name of "Black Cochin" because of its associations with a mongrel variety, and also because it implies a type of bird which we could only produce by the sacrifice of all those characteristics which make the Langshan so valuable in our estimation. But certain wiseacres say, "Your birds come from China, and why should you object to have them called Cochins?" To refuse to accord the Langshan its proper position as a distinct species because it "comes from China" is an act of gross absurdity; and as well might our American friends call game fowls Dorkings "because they come from England." In our own little island we have at least a dozen breeds of fowls indigenous to England, although it is not so large in extent as one of the smallest Chinese provinces; and surely there is greater scope for the cultivation of distinct varieties of poultry in a country like that, which, according to M'Culloch, boasts a compact area—between the China Sea and Tartary, between the Yellow Sea, Thibet and Kokonor—containing 1,348,870 square miles, and a population of 370,000,000 of human creatures! This estimate, of course, cuts off the surrounding fringe of savage life, and refers only to the eighteen provinces of China proper.

The Chinese have a great fancy for the cultivation of pure-bred pets, and it would be impossible to find any nation more learned in the mysteries of selective breeding, a lifetime being frequently devoted by John Chinaman to the dwarfing of animals or trees, or the cultivation of similar hobbies. Poultry-keepers

of the present day must remember the *furore* created by the first importation of Pekin bantams in 1861, and those of us who were present when those charming pets were "looted" at the burning of the Summer Palace, can bear testimony to the fact that pure breeds of poultry were found to be as assiduously cultivated in the interior of China by well-to-do citizens as are those dwarfing hobbies of the Chinese, about which so much has been written and said. We well remember one old lady who had concealed her feathered pets beneath an inverted tub, upon which she sat and gesticulated as the foraging party ransacked her premises. A crow from the tub discovered the trick, and the poor old lady, in an agony of tears, saw her choice bantams ruthlessly killed and carried off in triumph by a "sailor barbarian." Our sympathies are with the old lady—it was too bad, not only to steal but kill her pets.

ENGLISH STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE PUBLISHED IN 1877.

STANDARD OF THE LANGSHAN COCK.

Size.—In fowls of such remarkable merit for table purposes, size must be the first consideration; and an adult bird should weigh not less than 10 lbs.

Carriage and Shape.—Sufficiently long on the leg to give a graceful carriage to the body; head carried well back with full-flowing hackle; good wide shoulders, and very long meaty breast; fan-shaped tail carried rather high, with plenty of glossy side-hangers, and two sickle feathers some six inches or more beyond the rest. General bearing, that of an extremely active, intelligent bird.

Comb.—Red, single, straight, and large; fine in quality, and evenly serrated, being free from side-sprigs.

Beak.—Dark horn colour, strong, well tapered, and slightly curved at point.

Head.—Small for size of bird, full over the eye, and carried well back.

Eye.—Large, bright, and intelligent, and ranging in colour from lightish brown to very dark hazel, with black pupil.

Deaf-ear and Wattles.—Brilliant red, fine in quality, and rather large.

Neck.—Sufficiently long to give a symmetrical appearance to, and harmonise well with, the other proportions of the body.

Back.—Broad at shoulders and rising rather abruptly to tail, the saddle being abundantly furnished with rich hackles.

Breast.—Deep and meaty, a long breast-bone being absolutely necessary to the production of "white meat" in excess of offal.

Wings.—Well clipped up and having very brilliant coverts.

Tail.—Fan-shaped and abundantly furnished with tail coverts and distinct sickle feathers projecting beyond the rest for a distance of six inches or more.

Legs.—Wide apart, medium length, well feathered down to hocks (not vulture-hooked), the feathers running down outside the legs and the centres of the two outer toes on each foot. [This leg-feathering is much less than in the Cochin, and its profuse cultivation is strongly to be deprecated.]

Feet.—The toes should be long and straight, small of bone, and like the legs, a dark slate colour, with the skin between the toes and scales a *vivid pink.* [This vivid pink should be described rather as a qualily than a colour, it being the evidence of a thin skin.]

Plumage.—Dense black throughout, with a brilliant beetle-green gloss upon it. Purple or blue tinge should disqualify, as should white feathers in adult fowls.

Standard of Langshan Hen.

Size.—Not less than 8 lbs. when fully grown.

Carriage and Shape.—Gracefully rounded outline, free from that lumpy and squat appearance which result from short breasts and excess of offal—general appearance that of an active intelligent bird.

Plumage.—Same as in cock.

Comb.—Medium size, erect, fine in quality, and evenly serrated.

Tail.—Fan-shaped and full, carried rather high.

In other respects the hen resembles her mate, as enumerated above.

Scale for Judging Langshans.

Size	50 points.
Condition	20 „
Richness and density of colour	20 „
Head and comb	5 „
Legs and feet	5 „
	100

Defects in Langshans.

Want of size	30 points.
Crooked breast	20 „
Lop comb	5 „
Leg weakness	20 „
Bad Colour	10 „
Want of condition	15 „
	100

Disqualifications.—Yellow legs, yellow at base of beak or around the eye. White or coloured feathers, blue or purple sheen. Wry tail, crooked breast, or slipped wing. Any plucking, trimming, or other fraudulent practice.

White or coloured feathers, blue or purple sheen, wry tail, slipped wing, lop comb or side sprigs to comb are defects to which Langshans and all other breds of poultry are liable, but any trace of yellow in the legs, around the eye or at base of beak, white earlobes or five claws are distinct signs of impurity.

THE LANGSHAN SOCIETY

WITH

RULES AND LATEST REVISAL OF THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.

PRESIDENT.

CAPTAIN HERBERT TERRY.

COMMITTEE.

A C. CROAD. | H. M. ORME.
The Rev. A. C. DAVIES. | C. SEABROOKE.
R. TERROT.

HONORARY SECRETARY.

HARRY WALLIS.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

HERBERT MORRELL, Headington Hill Hall, near Oxford.

HARRISON WEIR, Iddesleigh, Sevenoaks.

Objects of the Society.

The Society was formed in the year 1884, for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the breeding of Langshan Fowls; for ensuring the *purity* of the breed; and for providing suitable prizes for competition.

The funds of the Society will be used chiefly for granting extra prizes at shows, in procuring suitable judges, and in such manner as the Committee may from time to time direct.

Rules of the Society.

1.—Persons wishing to become Members must send their names and addresses, enclosing their annual subscription of one guinea, or half a guinea, to the Honorary Seeretary. The latter subscription does not entitle the Member to serve upon the Committee.

2.—The Committee reserve to themselves the right to reject any application for Membership which they may deem objec. tionable, in which case the subscription will be returned.

3.—On being elected, the Honorary Secretary will communicate the fact, enclosing a Member's card, duly signed by the President and Honorary Secretary.

4.—The annual subscription is due on January 1st in each year.

5.—Members whose subscriptions are not paid at the time of the closing of entries of any show where a special prize is granted by the Society, will forfeit the said prize (if won by them) to the funds of the Society

6.—The winner of the Cup, or Cups, will be allowed to hold them on satisfactory guarantees being given ; but they will have to be returned to the Committee a month previous to the next competition.

7.—The Challenge Cups will become the property of the Exhibitor winning them on three separate occasions.

8.—As the Judges will be instructed to award their prizes according to the Society's "Standard of Excellence," Members are requested to breed for this standard as nearly as possible.

9.—Any Member against whom it can be proved to the satisfaction of the Committee, that he has not kept any birds he may exhibit or sell as Langshans, *pure from any cross whatever*, will at once have his name removed from the list of Members.

10.—Any Member who shall at any time become guilty of

malpractices at a Show will, on its being proved to the satisfaction of the Committee, or to the Committee of the Poultry Club, have his name struck off the list of Members. If the holder of a Club Cup or Cups, he must return the same at once to the Committee; this obligation also holds good in Rule 9.

By Order of the Committee,

HARRY WALLIS, *Hon. Secretary.*

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SPECIAL PRIZES ARE GRANTED AT SHOWS

1.—That the Show be held under Poultry Club Rules*

2.—That the Special be paid to the winner in addition to the Class money, without any deduction.

3.—That the birds are shewn in the larger sized pens, as used for Cochins and Brahmas.

4.—That the name of the Judge or Judges' names be submitted to the Hon. Secretary, in order that the Committee may select him or one of their number. In the event of none being approved, that the Society provides its own Judge free of expense to the Show Committee.

By Order of the Committee,

HARRY WALLIS, *Hon. Secretary.*

* The "Royal," "Palace," "Dairy," and "Birmingham" Shows excepted

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STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.

REMARKS APPLICABLE TO BOTH SEXES.

Size.

In a breed of such value for table purposes, size is an important consideration; a Cock should weigh *at least* 9lbs., and a Hen *not less* than 7lbs.

Colour.

Beak—Light to dark horn colour, the latter preferred.

Comb
Face
Wattles
Deaf-ears } Brilliant red.

Eye—Light brown to dark hazel (the latter preferred) with black pupil.

Legs and feet—Dark slate (turning lighter after the first year) with skin between the scales and toes showing a pink tinge. Under foot, white.

Toe nails—White.

Plumage—Deep rich black throughout, glossed brilliantly with metallic green, the greener the better ; purple sheen is a *great blemish.*

Skin—White and thin.

Cock.

General description—Tall, upright and alert, with head carried high, deep, well-rounded body, wide shoulders, prominent breast, fan-shaped flowing tail, with plenty of glossy side hangers and two long sickle feathers.

Head—Small for the size of the bird, free from coarseness and carried well back.

Beak—Slightly curved, strong, and well proportioned.

Comb—Single, upright, of medium size, fine in texture, evenly serrated, and free from sidesprigs.

Wattles—Well rounded, medium size, and fine in quality.

Deaf Ears—Smooth and well proportioned.

Neck—Gracefully arched and reachy, covered with rich glossy hackle broad at base and tapering gradually to the head.

Back—Fairly long, saddle feathers rather short and *close fitting.*

Breast—Full and deep, a long breast bone with abundance of white meat.

Wings—Fairly large, carried somewhat low, and with very brilliant coverts

Tail—Fan-shaped and full, carried fairly high, abundantly furnished with tail coverts, and distinct sickle feathers projecting beyond the rest several inches.

Thighs—Rather short but well developed, covered with close fitting feathers, especially close round the hocks.

Shanks—Wide apart, rather long, fine in bone, with a fringe of feathers on the outside.

Toes—Long. straight and well spread out; the outer toe only slightly feathered

Plumage—Tight feathered and very little fluff.

HEN.

General description—Gracefully rounded outline, body carried well off the ground, and free from lumpy or squat appearance; smart and alert in carriage.

Comb—Very neat and erect.

Back—Fairly long, with scarcely any cushion.

Tail—Fan-shaped and full.

(In other respects the hen is similar to the cock.)

SCALE OF JUDGING.

POINTS.		DEDUCTIONS.	
Richness of colour	20	Want of breast meat	15
Symmetry	15	Crooked breast	15
Size	15	Purple Sheen	15
Condition	10	Too much fluff	15
Head and comb	10	Heavy feathered legs and toes ...	15
Legs and feet	10	Faulty comb	10
Thin skin and white flesh ...	10	Short shanks	10
Fine bone	10	Twisted toes	5
	100		100

Judges are requested to pass birds with any of the following defects :—yellow skin, shanks or feet shaded with yellow, yellow at base of beak or around the eye, vulture hocks, feathering on middle toes, clean legs, coloured feathers, wry tail, squirrel tail permanent white on ear lobe, comb with side sprigs or other than single.

THE AMERICAN STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.

It is the habit of the "American Poultry Association" to pass the "Standards" of the various breeds in review every five years, when such alterations as may be deemed expedient by the fanciers of each breed are made, and the whole re-published. At the last meeting of the "Association" it was decided to add an illustration of a typical bird to the "standard" of each variety—this has caused some delay in the publication of the book; but through the courtesy of Mr. Mortimer, the President of the American Langshan Club, we are enabled to present our readers with a copy of the Langshan Standard of Excellence as it will appear in the forthcoming work.

LANGSHANS.

Disqualifications.

Shanks not feathered down the outer sides; outer toe not feathered; yellow skin; bottom of feet yellow in colour; combs other than single; white in any part of the plumage, except the leg and toe feathers; cocks not weighing eight and one half pounds; hens not weighing seven pounds; cockerels not weighing six and one-half pounds; pullets not weighing five pounds.

Standard Weights.

Cock, 9½ lbs.; Cockerel, 8 lbs.; Hen, 7 lbs.; Pullet, 6 lbs.

The Male.

Head.—Of medium size, and rather broad. *Beak*—stout at the base, well curved, and in colour, horn, shading to a pinkish colour near the lower edge. *Eyes*—dark brown or hazel. *Face*—bright red.

Comb.—Single, rather large, perfectly straight and upright, free from side sprigs, evenly serrated, fine in texture, bright red.

Wattles and Earlobes.—Wattles of medium length, well rounded, fine in texture, bright red. Earlobes well developed, pendent, fine in texture, bright red.

Neck.—Of medium length, well arched, with abundant hackle, flowing well over the shoulders.

Back.—Of medium length, broad, flat at the shoulders, with a gentle rise from the middle thereof, to the tail, with abundant saddle feathers flowing well over the sides.

Breast—Round, deep, and full.

Body and Fluff.—Body deep and thick in front of the thighs, skin white. Fluff fairly developed, but not so abundant as to hide the profile of the back joints.

Wings.—Of medium size, well folded and carried close to the body.

Tail.—Large, full, well spread at the base, and carried well up, but not squirrels. *Sickles*—long, and extending six or nine inches beyond the tail. *Coverts*—long; the longer they are the better.

Legs and Toes.—Thighs strong and well covered with soft feathers. Shanks of medium length, stout in bone, standing well apart, bluish black, showing pink between the scales, which are nearly black, and feathered down the outer sides. Toes long, straight, slender, the scales nearly black, the outer toes feathered to their extremities, the web and bottom of the feet pinkish white, the deeper the pink shade the better.

Colour of Plumage.—Neck, back, saddle, sickles, coverts, glossy metallic black; breast, primaries, secondaries, tail fluff, shank and toe feathers black; undercolour black or dark slate.

THE FEMALE.

Head.—Smaller than in male, and less broad. *Beak*—stout at the base, well curved, and in colour, horn, shading to a pinkish colour near the lower edge. *Eyes*—dark brown or hazel. *Face*—bright red.

Comb.—Single, smaller than in the male, perfectly straight and upright, free from side sprigs, evenly serrated, fine in texture, bright red.

Wattles and Earlobes.—Wattles fairly developed, well rounded, fine in texture, bright red. Earlobes fairly developed, firm in texture, bright red.

Neck.—Of medium length, with full hackle.

Back.—Of medium length, broad, flat at the shoulders, full in the cushion, which rises well on the tail.

Breast.—Broad, deep, and full.

Body and Fluff.—Body deep, thick, well balanced, skin white. Fluff abundant, much heavier than in the male.

Wings.—Of medium size, well folded, and carried close to the body.

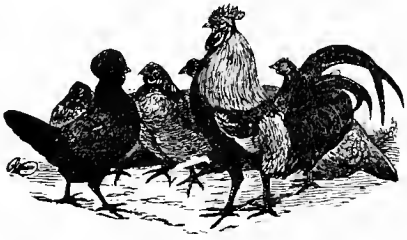
Tail.—Well spread at the base, carried not so high as in the male, but well above and beyond the cushion, and furnished with long coverts.

Legs and Toes, Thighs.—Strong and well covered with soft feathers; *Shanks* of medium length, small boned, standing well apart, bluish black, showing pink between the scales which are nearly black, and feathered down the outer sides; *Toes*, long, straight, slender, the scales nearly black, the outer toes feathered to the extremities; the web and bottom of feet pinkish white, the deeper the pink shade the better.

Colour of Plumage.—Neck, back, cushion, coverts, glossy metallic black; breast, primaries, secondaries, tail, fluff, shank, and toe feathers black; under colour, black or dark slate.

The above is an exact copy of the *Langshan Standard*, taken from the American Standard of Perfection.

FRANCIS A. MORTIMER.



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AYLESBURYS AT CRYSTAL PALACE;

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"HENRY DIGBY."

SAMPLES POST FREE.

Of all Dealers, in sealed Bags, price (bag included) per cwt, 20/-, per half cwt., 10/6, per quarter cwt., 5/6, per 14lbs., 2/9, per 7lbs., 1/6.

"CRISSEL," 28/- per cwt.

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LIVERINE is a grand conditioner of all kinds of Fowls, Game, Ducks, Geese, and Turkeys. For either Domesticated or Wild Pheasants it is the one thing needful for health, vigour, and beauty of plumage.

The rearing of Chicks, however bad the season may be, becomes an easy matter when LIVERINE is used. On it they invariably thrive.

As an Egg-Producer there is nothing to equal Liverine.

A very large Poultry Breeder says: "I have several compounds of my own, and I have purchased many others at different times for the purpose of promoting healthy fertile egg laying, but I am bound to say that Liverine excels all I ever used. I now scarcely ever have a bad egg.'

Gentlemen,—I have tried your Patent Fish Meal that you sent in the spring. I fed the two First Prize Winners at "Royal, Newcastle": "Aylesbury Ducks." I have also fed Medal Winner at the Dairy Show London; "Poland Cockerel." I consider the Fish Meal before any other before public; it acts in place of bone meal and greaves. If mixed with a little coarse sharps for morning meal, it comes in a very cheap and excellent food. It only requires to be better known, when "Liverine" will become a household word in the poultry world. Please send me at once two more cwt.—Faithfully yours, R. BUTTERFIELD.

P.S.—I keep 50 distinct breeds of Poultry always on hand—2,000 to 5,000 head. I intend to try it on the whole lot R. B.

Price, **17/-** per cwt., ½cwt., **9/-**, Sample Bag, **1/-**

CARRIAGE PAID.

Mix crumbly half Liverine and half sharps with boiling water. For adults give warm for morning meal; hard corn at night. For chicks give Liverine mixed as above every other meal. In all cases give only as much as birds will clear up in ten minutes; if any left, remove it.

THE LIVERINE CO., GREAT GRIMSBY

WHITE LANGSHANS.

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President of the American Langshan Club,

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